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Issue No 105

Available from Wednesday,
September 16, 2009

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MUM'S FURY OVER E.COLI NIGHTMARE

A MOTHER has hit out at health officials after her twin sons became seriously ill with E.coli infection after an outbreak at a petting farm.

Todd and Aaron Mock, aged two, are on dialysis after they suffered kidney failure in the wake of a family trip to Godstone Farm in Surrey.

Their mother, Tracy Mock, from Paddock Wood, is demanding answers as to why the farm was only closed on Saturday – more than two weeks after the first outbreak of E.coli was detected and 12 days after their visit on

■ BY ANNA WHITE

August 31. Miss Mock, 38, told reporters yesterday: "I'm so angry. They should have closed it down as soon as they realised what was wrong. Instead they have turned my family's life into a living nightmare."

"They have played a lottery with my children's health. If they had just shut the place down, my sons would not be in hospital on kidney dialysis machines. My partner and I are taking turns to be there with them. One has had a blood transfusion. The doctors say it could be weeks until they are fit to come home."

"The farm has a lot to answer for. It's not enough for them to say, 'we followed the Health Protection Agency's advice'."

"They should have followed their conscience and closed it down as soon as they knew there was a risk. It was irresponsible to keep it open."

The twins were first taken to a hospital near their home but were then transferred to St Thomas' Hospital in London after their condition became worse.

It is likely they will stay on dialysis for another two weeks but it will take longer to make a full recovery. Miss Mock's five-year-old daughter was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



SHALL WE DANCE?

Two stars of the hit BBC show Strictly Come Dancing will waltz into Ditton next month. Kristina Rihanoff and professional dance partner Brian Fortuna will perform a one-off show at Ditton Community Centre on Sunday, October 25. And Russian-born blonde bombshell Kristina, 31, could be bringing a very special guest to join the audience to watch the show.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

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3 The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, talks about The Gathering. Search 'Archbishop'

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Convoy lining up to support the pram push

■ BY ANNA WHITE

TORY hopeful Helen Grant will be joined by a convoy of lorries when she pushes a buggy 17 miles to protest about full maternity services being moved from Maidstone Hospital.

Yourmaidstone last week revealed that Mrs Grant is to push a pram from Maidstone Hospital to Pembury Hospital – where the unit is to be relocated in 2011 – on Sunday, September 27.

Mrs Grant, the prospective parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and Weald, hopes her walk will highlight the risks pregnant women could face if they have to travel that extra distance. She has received offers of support from people wanting to join her on the route, including drivers of vans, trucks, tractors and a convoy of lorries.

Marden Business Forum is backing her and some members, including hauliers Staplehurst Transit and Claygate Distribution, have offered lorries to join the convoy which will travel along the A26 and A228.

A water tanker will be supplied by Water for Work and an industrial roadsweeper from Scarab Sweepers will also join the convoy.

Reluctantly, Mrs Grant has had to decline the offers of extra walkers, as part of the route is not suitable for large groups on foot. But she is inviting everyone to show their support by waving her off from Maidstone Hospital at 9am on the day.

She said: "There is no good way of getting to Pembury from Maidstone if you are in labour, especially if there are complications."

If Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust goes ahead with the plan, the consultant-led full materni-



CAMPAIGN ON TRACK: Darren Goldup of Staplehurst Transit is backing Helen Grant

ty service at Maidstone Hospital will be moved to the new Pembury Hospital when it opens in 2011.

The service at Maidstone will be replaced by a midwife-run birthing unit. The decision has caused outrage among campaigners and parents. Mrs Grant is collecting a petition to send to Health Secretary Andy Burnham.

A spokesman for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust said it remained confident the changes will improve services for patients.

• Mrs Grant's political rival, Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate Peter Carroll, has also launched a campaign to keep full maternity services at Maidstone. In Maidstone town centre on September 5, the Full Maternity at Maidstone campaign attracted 600 signatures on a petition also to be sent to Mr Burnham.

For full details of Mrs Grant's route, visit www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Thomas Cook fraud trial set for new year

FOURTEEN people have pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy to defraud Thomas Cook of £235,000.

All the accused appeared at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday and denied attempting to defraud the tour operator between April 1 last year and July 27 this year.

Seven defendants were arrested at Gatwick Airport last October after reports of holidays booked to Jamaica using compromised credit cards.

All the defendants will face trial at Maidstone Crown Court, starting on January 4 next year and expected to last eight weeks.

Two charged after nightclub drug raid

TWO men have been accused of drug dealing after a police raid at a town centre nightclub.

Darren Owen, 51, and David Barrat, 41, were arrested during a raid at Source Bar on July 9.

Owen, of Salisbury Road, Maidstone, has been charged with possession with intent to supply cannabis. Barrett, also of Salisbury Road, is charged with possession with intent to supply cocaine. Both have been bailed to appear at Maidstone Magistrates Court on September 28.

A 29-year-old man and a 23-year-old woman arrested at the same time have had all charges against them dropped.

Four party hopefuls in Fant ward by-election

MAIDSTONE council has announced the four candidates standing in next month's by-election for Fant ward.

After the resignation of Liberal Democrat Nick Schnell, the main parties have selected candidates to replace him for the remainder of his two-year term.

Lib Dem Fran Smith faces competition from Tory Paul Butcher, Stuart Jeffery of the Green Party and Labour's Bruce Heald. Whoever wins on October 1 will represent the area alongside Tory Cllr Stephen Paine.

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EXCLUSIVE

BY ANNA WHITE

UNDEFEATED boxing world champion Joe Calzaghe could pay a visit to Maidstone when his Strictly Come Dancing partner performs at a community centre next month.

The retired super-middleweight has been paired with Russian-born professional dancer Kristina Rihanoff for the latest series of BBC's flagship TV show – which begins this weekend.

Rihanoff, 31, and her professional dancer partner Brian Fortuna, who is paired with The Bill actress Ali Bastian on Strictly, will be spending one of their nights off entertaining fans at Ditton Community Centre.

Speaking exclusively to Yourmaidstone, Rihanoff said Calzaghe might make an appearance at the event as he is keen to see her dance away from the BBC show.

She said: "Joe is very keen to see what I do for a living away from Strictly and I have told him about the show. So hopefully, if he isn't too tired as it will be quite into the series, he will come along too."

The dancing duo have been in the spotlight recently over speculation they are romantically linked, after photographs of them leaving a restaurant, holding hands and dancing on the pavements, were printed in the national press.

But despite the rumours, Rihanoff claims their relationship is purely one of friendship.



FIGHTING TALK: Kristina Rihanoff and Brian Fortuna could be joined by her Strictly dance partner Joe Calzaghe, inset

She said: "We spend six hours a day rehearsing so it's a good thing we get on. We just have a strong friendship and I like his personality."

"I'm sure it would either be that or we hate each other and had fallen out. I think it's funny that we were dancing on the pavement – it shows we are dedicated to rehearsing!"

The blonde bombshell first joined Strictly last year and was teamed with political journalist John Sergeant – who left the show after he feared his clumsy dancing, which won over the public, could have taken him to the final.

Speaking about this year's series, Rihanoff said:

"Rehearsals are going well. Joe is really dedicated and it's great that he has been tipped as an early favourite, but there is going to be some tough competition."

As for the Ditton show, she said: "I'm really looking forward to it. We have wanted to do it for such a long time, it will be great to come to Kent."

Tickets for An Evening with Brian Fortuna and Kristina Rihanoff on Sunday, October 25, are £35 and can be bought from www.strictlykent.com.

The event starts at 7pm and is organised by Kent-based agency e-motive Media in association with the Starlite School of Dance.

Final farewell to Puma 'Minty'

FRIENDS and family paid their last respects to an American footballer who died during a match last month.

The funeral of Maidstone Pumas player Alan Newcombe, 26, was held at Vinters Park crematorium on Thursday.

Mr Newcombe, who was known as Minty, had been playing against the East Kent Mavericks on Sunday, August 16, at the University of Kent at Canterbury, when he collapsed in the closing stages of the game. He had stopped breathing when ambulance crews arrived.

Mr Newcombe was taken to Kent and Canterbury Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

His family welcomed flowers and donations to St John Ambulance in his memory. After the private service, friends and family were invited to the Newcombe family home in Grove Green.

KIG changes rejected

COUNCIL bosses have rejected extra information and amended plans for the Kent International Gateway proposal.

Maidstone council in May rejected plans for the road and rail interchange off junction eight of the M20 at Bearsted.

At a pre-public inquiry hearing on June 12, the applicant announced it wanted to submit new plans and an additional supplementary environmental statement.

On September 10, Maidstone's planning committee rejected the changes, which include a reduction in warehouse and office floor space from 373,746 sq m to 300,592 sq m, landscaping changes and changes to watercourses and balancing ponds.

The public inquiry is due to start on October 13 and last eight weeks. For the first two days it will be held at the Ramada Hotel in Hollingbourne and will then move to Kent House, in Romney Place, opposite the Mail Chequers multi-storey car park entrance.

Petting farm E.coli anger

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

daughter was also one of 36 people to contract the infection following a visit to the farm. She has since made a full recovery.

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) told the BBC that the outbreak began at the farm on August 8, but it did not receive details of the first case until August 27.

After reports of several cases, the farm banned petting and closed its sandpit on September 3, before its full closure at the weekend.

The HPA's regional director, Dr Graham Bickler, told BBC Radio 4 the decision to ban petting before the whole farm was closed was "based on knowledge from past outbreaks".

He said: "It possibly turns out to be wrong advice, but it was what we knew at the time based on previous evidence and experience."

Farm manager Richard Maule-Oatway yesterday told reporters that he had co-operated fully with the inquiry and followed all safety procedures.

He said: "All the staff are very upset about the outbreak and we hope all the children make a full and speedy recovery."

"We will not reopen until we are satisfied we have got to the root of the problem."

Frontline services safe, but £1.2m must be trimmed

RESIDENTS will be asked which services they want to save as council bosses prepare to make cuts to their spending and staff.

Maidstone council leader Cllr Chris Garland has warned services and jobs could be under threat as the council attempts make savings of £1.2 million.

While it is likely frontline services such as waste collection will be safe from the axe, other services the council is not required to fund could face funding cuts.

But before any decisions are made, Cllr Garland is appealing to the public to share their views on the services they feel are most important.

He said: "We are relying on people to tell us what they expect from their council and what they want us to provide."

"The council spends £5m on services we are not obliged to and with the recession we need to focus on frontline services that people need, such as affordable housing, bin collections

and community safety."

A staffing review is under way and Cllr Garland said £700,000 could be saved through not replacing employees who have left, and merging departments with other district councils.

The council already shares an auditing department with Ashford council, and that partnership could extend to human resources, legal, and revenue and benefits.

Both Maidstone and Ashford councils are members of the Mid Kent Improvement Partnership, along with Tunbridge Wells and Swale – which could also share departments.

Cllr Garland said: "It's about removing duplicates and spreading our resources."

The reviews will all be debated within the cabinet and full council in February next year in time to decide the 2010/2011 budget in April.

Cllr Garland said he will announce how the public can get involved with the decision in due course.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Benefits cheat ordered to do community service

A WOMAN from Maidstone has been sentenced to 100 hours of community work after she pleaded guilty to benefit fraud.

Ann Henderson, from Grafty Green, appeared at Maidstone Magistrates Court on September 8, where she admitted failing to notify a change of circumstances that would have affected her housing benefits.

Mrs Henderson had claimed more than £1,235 in benefits. She was sentenced to a 100 hours unpaid work in the community.

Full costs and a full compensation order were awarded.

Woman who stole purse now faces deportation

A BULGARIAN woman could face deportation after she pleaded guilty to stealing a purse in a town centre shopping centre.

Stefka Petrova, 38, of Tottenham, was caught stealing a purse in Bon Marche in The Mall Chequers on Saturday, August 29. She appeared in court on August 31 and has been remanded until her sentencing.

The UK Border Agency has been notified and she has been told she could be deported.

Infants' school calls in charity to find governors

AN INFANT school needs potential governors with an interest in the community and helping to improve education standards.

St Paul's Infant School in Pendenden Heath has teamed up with charity School Governors One-Stop Shop (SGOSS) to recruit new members to its governing body.

Applicants do not need any experience but should be 18 or over and free for six to eight hours a month during term time.

Call Sam Butlin on 0207 288 9537.

Appeal for witnesses after fight outside pub

POLICE have appealed for witnesses to a heated row outside a country pub.

A man was taken to hospital with head injuries after the dispute involving two groups of men erupted into violence outside The Victory pub in East Farleigh, at about 9pm on Saturday, August 29.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or who has information about it should contact Maidstone police on 01622 604280.

Mela helps to bring community together

■ BY ANNA WHITE

THOUSANDS of people flocked to Mote Park at the weekend for the cultural festivities of the seventh Maidstone Mela.

The two-day event of food, dance and music was hailed as the best yet by organisers Maidstone council, the North West Kent Racial Equality Council and Cohesion Plus.

The Mela brings an international feel to the county town, with stalls preparing, cooking and selling their national and regional cuisine, as well as displaying and selling crafts and national dress.

On Saturday, visitors were treated to stage performances from bhangra singer Jassi Sidhu and Queen tribute act Magic, and a light installation by Emergency Exit Arts.

The crowds watched a schools parade on Sunday and took advantage of all the other attractions, including community stalls.

Maidstone council's cabinet member for community services, Cllr Marion Ring, said: "This was our best Mela ever."

"Thousands of people enjoyed bhangra superstar Jassi Sidhu, the Queen tribute band and an amazing light show on Saturday night, and on Sunday there were more stalls and people than ever."

"There was a tremendous variety of acts including the Indian Dance Academy, our local



CELEBRATIONS: Marion Ring and Morel D'Souza with a group of dancers from Senacre, and right, a member of the Indian Dance Academy member, were just some of those taking part in the seventh Maidstone Mela

Nepalese and Greek communities, and even a Gothic Morris dance troop."

Gurvinder Sandher, director of Cohesion Plus, said: "I am really pleased with how the Maidstone Mela has developed."

"It has evolved from a one-day celebration of music, food and dance to one which celebrates the diversity of Maidstone over several months."

"I believe the work we are doing in Maidstone is a beacon for other parts of the country and is an excellent example of how the

arts can be used to promote community cohesion."

This year's Mela was officially launched in June by a parade of children walking through Maidstone for a flag-raising ceremony. The parade was led by the Four by Four Bhangra dhol drummers and Brazilian, Cuban and African band, Bloco Fogo.

Other events in the run-up to the Maidstone Mela included Henna hand-painting, traditional Gurkha and Swedish food, and various workshops.

Museum extends popular prison exhibition



A TEMPORARY exhibition about the history of Maidstone Prison has proved so popular since it launched five months ago that it has been extended for another month.

The display Within the Walls: A History of Maidstone Prison has attracted more than 24,000 people since it opened at Maidstone Museum on May 28.

It had originally been scheduled to end on July 26, but was extended to September, and its increasing popularity has now caused council bosses push its final date back to October 1.

Maidstone council's cabinet member for leisure and culture, Cllr Brian Moss, said: "This

figure is astonishing, it's so good to hear so many people have come to the museum to see this exhibition."

"If you haven't already I would urge you to get down there before it closes. It is very interesting and a big thank you goes to all those who helped make it possible."

The Within the Walls exhibition at the museum in St Faith's Street charts the history of the prison since it first opened in the town centre 190 years ago up until the present day. It was officially opened by former prisons minister, Maidstone and Weald MP Ann Widdecombe, on June 13.



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Wrestler set to sign lucrative WWE contract

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

A HOME-grown wrestler has agreed to join the company that made global superstars out of Hulk Hogan and The Rock.

Nigel McGuinness, 33, who grew up in Staplehurst and attended Maidstone Grammar School, has made such a name for himself on the American independent circuit that he has been offered a contract at World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE).

The deal has the potential to make a millionaire out of the former chemistry student, who was last year ranked the third best in the world by Power Slam magazine.

McGuinness, who keeps his real name a closely-guarded secret, told The Sun that he was "not 100 per cent on board yet".

He added: "I still have to dot some i's and cross some t's, but it's looking positive."

"It's been a long time coming – ten years since I first started training and about 18 since that fateful day I sat in Wembley Stadium and said I was one day going to be a pro wrestler."

"Still, like I said, I don't want to tempt fate until it's all signed, sealed and delivered."

McGuinness – who made a cameo appearance in the award-winning Mickey Rourke film The Wrestler – first became hooked when he watched the likes of Big Daddy and Giant Haystacks on ITV's popular World of Sport show in the 1980s.

He trained at a school in the States before returning to England to tour village halls and holiday camps, and is regarded as one of the most promising stars in the business.

Until recently he was the champion of America's number three promotion Ring of Honor (ROH), which acts as an unofficial feeder for WWE.

ROH owner Cary Silkin said: "Nigel has been a tremendous leader in the Ring of Honor locker room and, without question, a wonderful performer."

"We couldn't be happier for Nigel as he takes the next step in his stellar wrestling career."

Formerly known as the World Wrestling Federation (WWF), WWE is a hugely-profitable company that also has its own film and music divisions.

News of McGuinness' signing has excited



GOING PRO: Nigel McGuinness is following in the footsteps of Hulk Hogan, below left, and The Rock



Picture: DAVID SHANKS

many fans who are eager to watch him perform on the biggest stage possible, and last week his name was the ninth most-searched term on Yahoo.

Last year Power Slam editor Fin Martin said he believed McGuinness has what it takes to be successful.

He said: "I think Nigel has a really good chance of making it big because he has the total package of skill and charisma."

"If there was one English guy I had to back, it would be him."

'We've lost wonderful son and brother'

THE family of a 22-year-old man killed in an off-road motorbike crash have paid tribute to their "wonderful" son and brother.

Robert McEwen-Cowan, of Smithers Close, Hadlow, came off a scrambler bike in woods near Swanton Road, Mereworth, on Sunday last week.

Emergency services arrived at about 7pm but he had suffered serious injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

In a statement released

through Kent Police, Mr McEwen-Cowan's family said: "This tragic accident has taken from us a wonderful son and brother."

"Robert loved cars, motorbikes and engines from a very early age and enjoyed being out and about with his friends."

"We are devastated by his sudden death and he will be greatly missed by all his friends and family."

An inquest into his death was opened and adjourned last Wednesday.



yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Superstore's green theme

A NEW homeware superstore is being built to be one of the greenest stores in the UK.

The Asda Living outlet in Maidstone has been designed to Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method standards to ensure its doing its bit for the environment.

The megastore, in St Peter's Street, which is due to open next month, includes low-energy lighting, light activation motion sensors, low energy air-conditioning and heating system, six bins for recyclable waste, and recycled construction waste.

Karl Smith, who will be the general manager of the store, said: "Being sustainable also means we will cut costs on energy bills, allowing us to pass these lower costs directly on to our customers."

The new Asda Living store is being built on the banks of the River Medway in conjunction with a Travelodge hotel.

Sea cadets welcome you

MAIDSTONE Sea Cadet Unit will open its doors to the public on Sunday.

The open day will allow anyone interested in becoming a sea cadet or volunteer to find out more at the unit's headquarters in College Road, Maidstone, from 11am to 3pm.

There will be rifle and drill demonstrations, and opportunities to learn what being a cadet involves, such as learning marine engineering, cookery and seamanship.

There will also be a raffle for prizes including a holiday. For details call Commanding Officer Nick Gilks on 07980 725116.

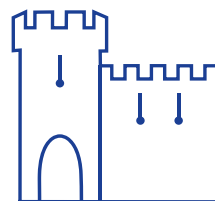
Triple pushchair stolen

A FAMILY has been left without transport for their children after their three-seater buggy was stolen.

The black buggy was taken from the driveway of a house in Ewell Avenue, West Malling, between 8.30pm and 10pm on Saturday, September 5.

Police community support officer Ed Moore said: "This theft has caused great inconvenience for the family."

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 01732 379217, call Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555111, or email appeals.westkent@kent.pnn.police.uk



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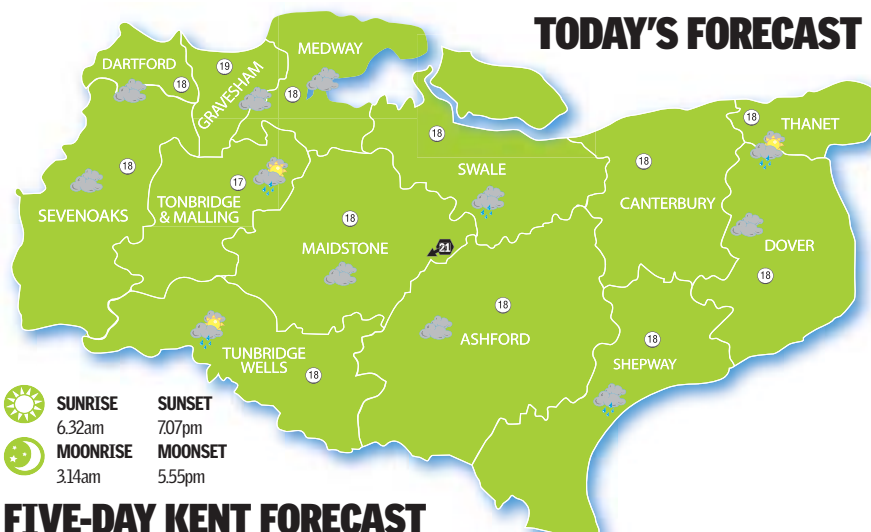
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Chatham	Saturday	1:48pm	6.4m
	Sunday	2:28pm	6.5m
Dover	Saturday	12:06pm	7.0m
	Sunday	12:45pm	7.1m
Dungeness	Saturday	12:09pm	8.1m
	Sunday	12:48pm	8.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:36pm	5.4m
	Sunday	1:15pm	5.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:38pm	6.0m
	Sunday	2:18pm	6.1m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:44pm	5.6m
	Sunday	2:27pm	5.6m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	18°C	Madrid	24°C
Athens	26°C	New York	24°C
Barcelona	25°C	Paris	18°C
Beijing	27°C	Rome	25°C
Bombay	28°C	Sydney	18°C
Cape Town	18°C	Tenerife	26°C
Cardiff	15°C	Tokyo	25°C
Gibraltar	26°C	Vancouver	20°C
Hong Kong	29°C	Warsaw	20°C
Las Palmas	28°C	Wellington	14°C

SUNRISE
6.32am
MOONRISE
3.14am

SUNSET
7.07pm
MOONSET
5.55pm

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	16°C	18°C	17°C	18°C	19°C	Gravesend	18°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	20°C
Canterbury	17°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	19°C	Maidstone	17°C	18°C	17°C	19°C	20°C
Chatham	17°C	17°C	16°C	18°C	18°C	Ramsgate	17°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	19°C
Dartford	18°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	20°C	Rochester	17°C	17°C	16°C	18°C	18°C
Dover	17°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	19°C	Sevenoaks	16°C	16°C	16°C	18°C	18°C
Faversham	17°C	17°C	16°C	18°C	18°C	Sittingbourne	17°C	17°C	16°C	18°C	18°C
Folkestone	17°C	17°C	17°C	18°C	19°C	Tonbridge	17°C	17°C	17°C	19°C	20°C
Gillingham	17°C	17°C	16°C	18°C	18°C	Tun Wells	17°C	17°C	17°C	19°C	20°C

Dream evening to help raise funds for charity and hospice

A BEAUTY salon team will host a glamorous ball to raise money for two charities.

The Reef Salon and Spa, in Gabriels Hill, is holding the Have a Dream-themed event on Friday, November 6, at Tudor Park Marriott Hotel on Ashford Road, Bearsted.

The dinner, from 7.30pm to 1am, will be in aid of Cancer Research UK and the Pilgrims Hospice in Canterbury.

Reef managing director Clare Cockell (pictured) said:

"This event is one of the biggest we have organised and we want to try and raise as much money for the two causes as we can."

"My friend Marie is the inspiration behind this charity ball. She passed away at the Pilgrims Hospice on July 10 after five years battling cancer – she was just 29."

"Marie was always fundraising for Cancer Research UK as she had previously battled cancer at the age of seven and in 2006 her mum also passed away from the disease."

"We now intend to continue fundraising in her memory."

Tickets for the event are £45 and include a three-course meal, goody bag for each guest, entertainment, an auction and a raffle.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

VERONICA KINGHAM



Q Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

A I am originally from the west of Ireland and when I finished university I worked in Switzerland before moving to the UK. I have worked in hotels throughout the country before settling just over the border in East Sussex. I have worked in Kent for ten years, the last three being at The Village Hotel and Leisure Club in Maidstone.

Q How did you get into the hotel industry?

A It was very simple really – all of my part-time jobs while at school were at hotels in my home town in Ireland. I just loved the work and enjoyed the atmosphere and the fun we had. It was clear from the word go that I wanted to be a hotel general manager. The managers I worked for in those very early days were great role models.

Q What are the main things you enjoy about managing a hotel and gym?

A I love the diversity – no two days are ever the same and time flies as the energy of the place sweeps you along. I have a great team here and while everyone has a job to do and it can be busy, we have a laugh along the way.

Everyone I know who works in a hotel says that they could write a book about what goes on and indeed it's true but the vast majority of it is all good.

Q The Village Hotel in Maidstone recently celebrated its fifth anniversary, what did you do to celebrate?

A It's hard to believe the hotel is now five. Many of the original opening team is still here. To celebrate we hosted a big birthday open day – we had plenty of activities and entertainment for all the family.

Some of our leisure club members took part in a two-hour spinathon, and the restaurant ladies put on a tea party and tombola to raise some money for charity. We had live music in the grounds, with a barbecue and some of the chaps from the local Army regiment took part in a tug-of-war with Maidstone Rugby Club.

A colleague of ours, Lee Horton, is climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in October to raise money for Help for Heroes and we are supporting him all the way. During the birthday celebrations we presented Lee with a cheque of more than £8,000 at our evening Gala Dinner to go towards the charity. We also presented some sponsorship money to Maidstone Rugby Club. It was a great day.

Q What events have you got coming up in the future?

A We have a packed programme to take us into the Christmas season.

We are continuing to raise money for Help for Heroes – kicking off with The V Factor on Friday, September 25. Our other charity event is the sports dinner on Wednesday, November 11, with guest speaker the legendary 1966

World Cup footballer Nobby Stiles. The autumn is really following a "here come the girls" theme with dinner evenings featuring Girls Aloud, Duffy, Lily Allen and Amy Winehouse tribute acts.

Q How has the hotel and gym coped during the current recession?

A Like everywhere it's been tough, but we reacted swiftly to what was happening. While we have noticed the business travellers have changed their stay patterns, we have seen a big pick-up in leisure travel, mostly from within the UK where people have decided to stay at home. We have also seen our local trade go from strength-to-strength, and our restaurant bar and Starbucks cafe have never been busier.

Q Why do you think the Village Hotel in Maidstone has stayed successful since it first opened?

A I think the location just off the main motorways and the proximity to Maidstone and all the villages really helps. The Village style of operation is all about being connected locally and not just about filling bedrooms.

We have a large leisure club with more than 4,000 members, together with all the usual hotel components and a thriving food and beverage business. The Village is constantly shifting, changing and trying new things out, which again adds to the buzz of the place.

Q&A

The general manager of The Village Hotel in Maidstone talks to **Anna White** about how the hotel and leisure club recently celebrated its fifth birthday and how the team is raising money for charity.

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Freemasons open their doors to highlight charity work. Search 'Masons'



Gallery's celebration of HG Wells, who lived Sandgate. Search 'Wells'



Jeanette Woodcock is raising funds to combat cancer. Search 'cancer'



Story of munitions ship which sank off Sheerness. Search 'Montgomery'



Portrait artist delights shoppers in Canterbury. Search 'portraits'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Bereaved mum targets drug dealer 'parasites'

Every parent worries their child will become involved in drugs and there are many ways Kent Police are involved in fighting dealers and trying to educate teenagers. This week, as part of our A Safer Kent series, we meet the mother of a young woman who died after taking what she believed was cocaine and discover how she is trying to stop others suffering the same fate. Reporter **Marijke Cox** speaks to Angela Pett about her daughter's death and the education programme she has now launched.

A GRIEVING mother has launched a campaign to stamp out "parasite" drug dealers who played a hand in her daughter's death.

Angela, 46, and Ian Pett, 49, and their son Joe, 23, were left devastated last October when 20-year-old Haniska died after taking cocaine on a night out.

The young hairdresser had bought the drugs from 'friends' who, according to Angela, had cut the drug with MDMA – a form of ecstasy – amphetamines, and BZP, a worming tablet for cows. There was only five per cent cocaine found in the powder.

Angela said: "I know it was Haniska's choice, but these dealers cut it with whatever they can to make more money."

"They pretend to be your friends, but they're not. The people who sold it to Haniska had bought it off dealers who had bought it off someone else and they had all cut it as it passed down the line."

"The big misconception is that people think you can't die from cocaine, but you can and my daughter's death proves that."

Angela is now using Haniska to teach others not to dabble in what are seen as recreational drugs. She plans to go to schools to tell youngsters about the dangers.

"Children need to be educated about drugs from as young as 14," she said.

"The police have been brilliant, but I think when it comes to going to schools to talk to children it would be better coming from someone who has experienced what drugs can do. I'd tell them that everyone has choices and one of them is life."

Angela said she has already been to pubs and clubs with police in Gravesend to watch them tackle the problem.

"They have special lights which show up cocaine traces and in one girls' toilet there wasn't a surface without it on," she said.

"The police are doing a good job though and pubs are really cracking down with searches and drop boxes for people to get rid of drugs, no questions asked."

Fun-loving

But she stressed the main problem is that taking cocaine is seen as socially acceptable.

"People think only heroin kills, but coke can too," she said. "The public view of drug-users is that they are thieves who steal to feed their habit, but with cocaine it's not like that. A lot of young professionals take it and in the case of my daughter, she worked hard but unfortunately spent her money on it."

Angela said she had known about Haniska's drug taking and had warned her.

The detrimental effect on her "beautiful and fun-loving" daughter was heartbreaking.

"Haniska was extremely caring, loud and funny, but after a heavy weekend, she would



TRAGIC LOSS: Angela with a photo of Haniska

get very moody and her nose would sometimes bleed. I can't believe she's gone, and all because of drugs."

"It's so upsetting that the parasite dealers who sold it to her are still out there."

"The police worked hard to get a conviction, but there isn't enough evidence. I'm not going to let this go. If I stop then they've won and Haniska's death was a waste."

DRUG FACT FILE

- Kent Police and local drug and alcohol teams are working to tackle drug-related crime and prevent deaths.
- Police are also working with pubs and clubs. This includes using technology to detect drugs and projecting messages about the dangers onto buildings.
- During a recent Tackling Drugs Week, police recovered more than 500g of cocaine with a street value of £22,000. They also made more than 50 arrests, many for dealing.
- During the action week 41 schools in Kent were visited by officers who warned pupils about the dangers.
- From 2008-09 Kent Police detected 3,912 drug offences, of which 644 related to the supply and production of drugs.
- A recent report into drug related deaths in the UK, from St George's University London, showed that nationally nine per cent of over 2,000 UK drug related deaths were linked to cocaine use.

You can ask the chief

NEXT month Kent police chief Michael Fuller has agreed to answer questions from our readers about any aspect of policing.

Chief Constable Michael Fuller said: "I am delighted to be able to talk to the people of Kent via your pages and I look forward to hearing from you, and having the chance to

let you know how we are making the county an even better place to live."

This is the third week of our A Safer Kent campaign looking behind the scenes at Kent Police to discover some of the stories behind the headlines as our

3,640 police officers help look after a population of 1.65 million.

Last week we featured the officer who came to Kent from one of Britain's most notorious areas for gun crime, bringing the expertise to ensure we remain alert and protected.

Next week we look at the hi-tech number plate reading technology on which police are increasingly using to monitor the movements of criminals.

To ask the Chief Constable a question, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or write to the editor at this newspaper: Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

We will carry as many answers as we can in our edition of October 7.



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Sid's mug not in the breast possible taste

Ugly Mug Amnesty brings ceramic crimes out of the closet

■ BY JON COATES

AN ALL The Breast Jimmy Jones mug – pictured above with Sid the dog – is the winner of the first Ugly Mug Amnesty.

Kurstie Long, from Folkestone, entered as soon as we opened the hunt for the ugliest mug in Kent.

The mug, which belongs to her mum Louise, was the frontrunner throughout most of the two-month search and just managed to stay a-breast of the competition.

But it was nearly pipped at the finishing post by a frog mug sent in by Maggie Francis of Penenden Heath, Maidstone, two weeks ago. Her snap of her vessel nestled in a pot plant holder has been awarded second place in the Ugly Mug Amnesty.

Third place goes to pensioner William Harrison, 61, from Canterbury, a volunteer for Age Concern Canterbury.

His Simply the Breast and Feeling Cocky mugs were given to him by his family to match his sense of humour.

Miss Long bought the All The Breast



SECOND: Frog mug owned by Maggie Francis



THIRD: William Harrison from Canterbury

Jimmy Jones mug at a boot fair two years ago for 50p. She said: "I think it is collectable and comes from the 1970s. I collect mugs."

KOS Media launched the search for the most quirky or bizarre drinking mug in the county at the end of July to kick-start Macmillan Cancer Supoport's major fundraising event, the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

The Ugly Mug Amnesty aimed to find the wackiest or most embarrassing mmug lurking at the back of Kent's cupboards.

Miss Long will receive a World's Biggest Coffee Morning Mug from Macmillan



MILKING IT: Sid the dog with the winning mug, submitted by Kurstie Long of Folkestone

Cancer Support and a £50 Coffee Gift Set from KOS Media.

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan's flagship fundraiser and takes place this year on Friday, September 25.

Now in its 19th year, it has become one of the biggest fundraising events in Britain.

Macmillan asks the pubic to host or attend a coffee morning, with all donations going directly to those affected by cancer.

Last year the World's Biggest Coffee Morning raised £7.5 million and the target this year is more than £8 million nationwide. But we are calling on all our readers to help make Kent the biggest fund-raiser in the country.

We'll be holding a coffee morning for staff on September 25 and urge businesses across the county to join in too.

Macmillan has 120 health professionals active across Kent helping patients and their families deal with cancer.

Their support means people do not have to face harrowing ordeals on their own.

• To take part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, visit www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee to register and pick up fund-raising tips, or call 0845 602 1246. Make sure you enter the code RNA 10 so Macmillan know you are a KOS Media reader.

'Cocaine' energy drink under fire

A DRINKS firm has defended its new product – Simply Cocaine – after it came under fire from anti-drugs groups.

It comes just a year after another company in the county, Ocke Cokey of Tunbridge Wells, was also attacked for planning to launch a British version of an American drink, called Cut Cocaine.

Simply Drinks, in Hawkhurst, launched their new bottle last month, advertised as a high-energy drink with a lemon fizz, featuring a character called Charlie.

It contains twice the caffeine of a Red Bull drink and the company says the product is only for those over the age of 18. As such, they have advised wholesalers it should not be sold in shops or supermarkets, but instead to bars and clubs who are happy to stock it. Owner of Simply Drinks, Daniel Evemy, said the drink, which is also available to buy online, is proving popular.

"It is targeted at 18 to 35 year olds with a sense of humour," he said. "There's no cocaine in it – it's 100 per cent legal. Energy drinks are a £1 billion a year industry and we wanted to get in there. We knew we'd be attacked, it's a contentious name, but so was Opium perfume when it was launched.

"I think it's better to talk about these things rather than brush them under the carpet. We're just targeting our market, there's no harm meant by it."

But the launch has angered anti-drug charities. Martin Barnes, chief executive of DrugScope, said: "This is little more than an intentionally provocative, cynical but rather tired marketing stunt. I'm sure most people will see through the branding ploy for what it is, but making light of an illegal drug that can, and does, cause harm isn't helpful or smart."



FIZZING: Simply Cocaine is aimed at the 18-35s

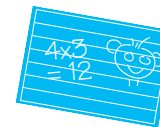


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AGREEMENT: Mary Gordon of Connexions, chief executive Gordon Bernard, Sarah Hohler and Joanna Wainwright, KCC director of commissioning

Helping you make right Connexions

A CAREERS advice service will continue to help young people in Maidstone and surrounding areas make the best of education opportunities.

Kent County Council has renewed its contract with the Connexions Partnership Kent and Medway in a three-year deal starting in April 2010.

Connexions will also incorporate Kent Works, which provides first-class work experience placements and other work-related learning opportunities.

The combined service will help 13 to 19 year olds to succeed in education and training, and start on the road to a successful career.

Connexions also provides advice on issues such as training, housing, money, relationships and health, as well as providing information on volunteering, community projects, the arts, sport and other leisure activities.

KCC cabinet member for children, families and education, Sarah Hohler, said: "Our agreement with the Connexions Partnership Kent and Medway brings together all the advice and support services that a young person could need."

For details of Connexions freephone 0800 432 0207, or www.connexionskentandmedway.co.uk

School sends old rugby kit out to Africa team

■ BY ANNA WHITE

CHILDREN in need in Africa have been presented with rugby kit donated by a school in Maidstone.

PE staff at the New Line Learning Academy in Loose collected the rugby clothing that was previously used at Oldborough Manor School – which was closed to make way for the academy on its former site.

The kit, which is in perfect condition, was donated to the Tag Rugby Development Trust (TRDT), which introduces tag rugby to primary school children in developing countries.

Resources

The school's equipment was presented to youngsters in Uganda and Zambia by the captain of the England Ladies rugby team, Catherine Spencer (pictured).

Headteacher Guy Hewett told Yourmaidstone: "It was a really good opportunity for us to help and what better way than to use old resources which are in such good condition."

"We don't use the old kit anymore as it has Oldborough

Manor on it, so it's great to give it to someone else to use.

"I really gave rugby a big push last year for girls and boys to get involved, although I am more of a football fan myself.

"Rugby can be played by all physical types and really has good benefits like team work.

"It has been really popular with boys and girls at the academy and they are really good at it.

"Through taking part in competitions you get to know rugby-related charities and organisations and that's how we found out about the Tag Development Trust.

"It was fantastic to see the children receive the kits.

"To see any child in any country happy and playing sport I consider to be a great thing.

"We are always looking for international links and what I would really love is to set-up a rugby match between New Line Learning and one of the teams from Africa.

"We shall see if something can hopefully come from that."



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Gareth Arnold thinks some parents were simply showing their ignorance in the school sheep slaughter row

Surely this lamb chop was a valuable lesson on life

THE debaa-cle over whether an Ashford school's lamb should be given the chop highlights the fact that Britain is still a long way from seeing sense when it comes to the food on our plates.

The likes of Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Jamie Oliver almost had me convinced that finally we had lost some of our dangerous and unrealistic sentimentality when it comes to the animals we eat.

But no. Not for a very small group of parents at Lydd Primary School (and the lovely Mr Paul O'Grady) at least, who have decided that they know best. Fortunately sense prevailed on Monday when the world said 'Goodbye Marcus – hello lamb chops for tea.'

Marcus is of course the sheep at the centre of the farmyard fiasco, hand-reared by the

children on their school farm. A fine animal of famous Romney Marsh stock, who was ready to go for slaughter, providing the meat for which the area has rightly become famous.

The pupils, who raised him seemed to have a more rational grasp of the situation than a couple of parents, despite being aged between seven and 11, and voted to pack him off to the abattoir and sell the meat to buy more lambs.

As these children have obviously learned, this process is called farming. Humans have been doing it for roughly 10,000 years.

You'd think we'd have got used to the concept by now, but some parents are embarrassing themselves and no doubt their offspring by calling for a stay of execution.

Most of the opponenets are, no doubt, people who enjoy their meat just as much as the rest of us, with one rather glaring caveat: they don't want to know where it comes from.

It is this ignorance that has allowed cruel practices like battery farms to flourish. If we don't

know where our meat comes from, we don't care.

And as the old adage goes, out of sight, out of mind. Nowhere is this more evident than Britain's food production methods, and we've paid the price for decades, with substandard meat, BSE, salmonella and one food scare after another.

The children at Lydd will not repeat this mistake if they are allowed to see their hard work come to its logical fruition and slaughter a happy animal they have raised humanely.

They will grow up understanding that meat comes from animals, not factories, and that these animals have lives and must be cared for properly until it is time to eat them.

So, well done to the head teacher for sticking to her guns.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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Write to The Editor, Yourmaidstone, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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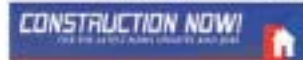
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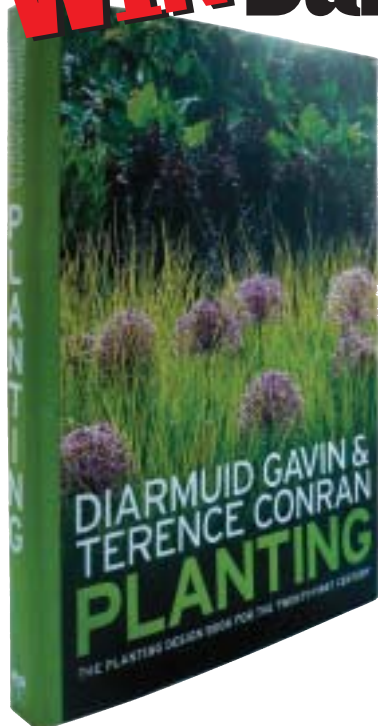


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WIN Dairmuid's latest book

We've got six signed copies to give away



CELEBRITY garden designer and television presenter Diarmuid Gavin is coming to Kent to launch his new book, *Planting*.

Brought to The Secret Gardens of Sandwich by independent local bookseller The Sandwich Bookshop, the launch will be held in a marquee in the heart of the beautiful Lutyens and Jekyll gardens and will provide an opportunity for visitors to meet Diarmuid and hear him talk about the book.

Following on from the hugely successful *Outdoors*, *Planting* is the ultimate guide to designing and planning a planting scheme for your garden.

Diarmuid Gavin and Sir Terence Conran explore nature's vast palette of plants, where they come from, what grows naturally in which conditions, but most importantly how they are used in the gardens all around the world and how you can use them in your own garden.

With more than 400 stunning photographs, *Planting* is inspiring, imaginative and practical. This is a garden design book

that reflects the unique talents and experience of these two authors.

Diarmuid Gavin's book launch will take place at The Secret Gardens of Sandwich on Saturday, October 3. The marquee will open at 2pm, with the event itself starting at 2.30pm. Tickets are £12 or £10 for season ticket holders (includes garden entry).

For more information about the beautiful venue or to book tickets to the launch see www.the-secretgardens.co.uk.

We have six *Planting* books signed by the pair to give away.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Diarmuid Gavin Book Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is September 30, 2009.

Question: Where is the book launch being held?

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk, or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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ICM2, Maidstone Road, Chatham, Kent ME5 9FD (New building next to Holiday Inn Rochester)

said article by Gary Wright.

Mr Wright needs to get his facts straight before printing such an article. Toby had not escaped 15 times – only twice has he made it to the station. I was with his mother, my close friend, when the police came and it was they who suggested a poster be given to rail staff to be displayed out of the public eye.

So, posters were given to each station office and I know they were not on display to the public.

The police also said Mr and Mrs Field had done everything possible to prevent Toby from escaping that was within the law. Social services were called too and they also said Toby's parents had done everything possible to prevent him getting out.

I know for a fact that the gate does have a proper lock on it and is locked at all times. How dare you suggest that my friend is a struggling parent and needs parenting skills. That in itself is slander and to suggest "she gushed" on TV is totally untrue.

I know what was shown and I also know Toby's parents weren't the ones who originally contacted the press. The matter is being dealt with by the Rail Network as a poster went missing from a station office.

Both Mr and Mrs Field are upset with the article and I suggest an apology is made in your next issue.

Toby is not the only youngster to "escape" from home – very recently a child of Toby's age was wandering round London bus-hopping and was missing for six hours.

So imagine how those parents felt, as that was on the news too.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the said article in issue 104 dated Wednesday, September 9, and I expect a formal apology for the upset caused to Mr and Mrs Field.

Amanda Ambrose, by email

Dear Mrs Ambrose,

Thank you for your email, which I have read carefully.

To deal with each point in turn. I apologise for getting the lad's name wrong, it is something I insist young reporters always get right and I should have re-checked.

However, anyone who had seen the story on the BBC website (where he was called Toby Friend) or indeed watched Toby's mum on TV the night before may well have thought the name was correct and will certainly of known to whom I was referring.

The BBC said Toby had escaped 15 times. A reporter in my office spoke with Toby's father and he told her that the youngster had escaped 15 times. So it would seem the youngster is able to escape. I accept your statement that he "only twice has he made it to the station".

I stand by my views – in what is clearly a comment piece on the reaction of certain parts of the media – that perhaps escaping once is unfortunate but (to paraphrase Oscar Wilde) to escape 15 times is, perhaps, careless.

Finally, and as a father of two children, I appreciate your point that Toby is not the only four-year-old to escape from home. However, I would hope if there is some good that comes out of this episode

perhaps it will encourage other parents to be more vigilant.

I am sure this reply will not satisfy your initial anger, fuelled at least in part by the fact you know the parents.

However, I wish you, Toby and the family well in the future and I shall be happy if I never see another article about the youngster attempting to escape the safety of his home.

Gary Wright, Group Editor Midweeks

Process information on meat/cancer link

I am writing to tell people in the area about the science behind recent media coverage of the links between ham and cancer.

In 2007, World Cancer Research Fund published the most comprehensive ever report into the links between cancer and diet, physical activity and weight.

This found convincing scientific evidence that eating processed meat, which includes ham, bacon and salami, increases risk of bowel cancer. This is why we recommend avoiding eating processed meat.

Every parent wants to give their child the best possible start in life. Instead of putting ham in children's sandwiches every day, try healthy sandwich fillings such as poultry or fish, low-fat cheese or houmous.

Find out more at www.wcrf-uk.org. There's a section on lunchboxes.

Lisa Cooney, head of education for World Cancer Research Fund, by email

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TOP flyers from all over the world will be doing battle in the Big Sky International Kite Festival this weekend.

The sky is the limit as kite experts from across the globe make the long journey to Thanet, simply to prove that they have what it takes to dazzle the crowds with their highflying antics. Now in its third year, the two-day event is jointly organised by Margate Town Partnership and the Kite Society of Great Britain.

The attractions include displays by top flyers from as far afield as New Zealand and Australia, keen to demonstrate their agility and skill. Pedro and Esteban Gonzales will be bringing some of Spain's warmth to Kent with their soft inflatable kites depicting suns and devils, while world-renowned Kiwi kite maker, Peter Lynn, shows off his cats, trilobites and manta rays. Kite designer Robert van Weers will also travel from New Zealand to exhibit his collection of soft kite animals, from fish to monkeys.

Belgium is represented by innovative designer, Jos Valcke, Team True Colours with their distinctive mix of soft kites and Team Atomic, whose collection includes Paddington Bear and huge octopuses. Holland's Kite Team will be making a splash with their giant champagne bottle, while fellow Dutchman Jan van Leeuwen presents his school bus and Janneke Groen impresses with her complex appliqué kites.

Father and son team,

BIG SKY INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 19 and
Sunday, September 20
Margate Main Sands

Bryan and Carl Wright, will be among those appearing for the UK, along with the Avon Kite Flyers, Brighton Kite Flyers and Andrew Beattie. See the prize-winning synchronised flying of France's four-man team, Tatoueurs du Ciel, the power kite theatrics and dancing of Son of the Winds and the beautiful collection belonging to Phil McConnochie, all the way from Australia.

Bernard Dingworth and kite colleague Jan Nelkenbrecher, from Germany, exhibit their soft seal, salamander and appliqué kites. Jan will be sharing the sands with fellow Germans Walter, Conny and Stefan Bloom who visit the UK for the first time with their large inflatable characters, such as Asterix and Spider Bear.

With workshops, stalls and other attractions on offer, visitors can simply enjoy the spectacle or buy their own kite and send it soaring into the skies. The event runs from 10am to 5pm.

For full event details visit the website at www.bigskykitefestival.org.uk or www.visitthanet.co.uk.



with
JANE CONNOLLY
Email jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk



BEST OF BRITISH VARIETY TOUR

Sunday, September 20
Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells

TOP names from the world of entertainment share the stage in the Best of British Variety Tour 2009.

Following the success of last year's inaugural tour, the extravaganza is back with a brand new line-up that boasts the cream of entertainment from past decades.

With music, comedy and even ventriloquism on the bill, this is a chance to see a wide range of respected performers together in one show.

During their 44-year-plus career, Cannon and Ball (pictured) have become one of Britain's most successful double acts ever. They continued to win fans with their appearance in ITV's reality show, I'm A Celebrity... and have been immortalised in This Is Your Life.



TV legend Tom O'Connor is a hugely popular comedian and presenter who has hosted eight successful game shows. Joining him on the line-up are the First Lady of Impressions, Faith Brown, and Eurovision Song Contest winners, Bucks Fizz.

The entertainment continues with performances by ven-

triloquist Roger DeCoursey with Nookie Bear and 'comedian', Norman Collier.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets will cost £26.50 or £24.50.

You can book online at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01892 530613/532072.

BENJAMIN GROSVENOR

Friday, September 25
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone

REMARKABLE young pianist Benjamin Grosvenor has become a globe-trotting star while still in his teens.

The 16-year-old from Essex will find the trip to Kent very short compared to some other engagements, having made concert appearances in Germany, France, Finland, the Czech Republic, Brazil and New York's Carnegie Hall.

Closer to home, Grosvenor has appeared at the Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall, Barbican and Royal Albert Hall in London.

Earlier this year he performed with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, playing the Grieg concerto to critical and audience acclaim.

His Maidstone concert will



be followed by a return to Finland, before he jets off to Tokyo to make his debut with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra.

Despite his high-flying music career, Grosvenor achieved three A grades at A-level and is now studying for a degree at the Royal Academy

of Music. The concert programme includes challenging pieces by Kapustin, Liszt, Chopin and Ravel.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £12/£10, or £5 for piano students.

Book online at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk or call 01622 758611.

FAMILY FUN WEEKEND

Saturday, September 19 and
Sunday, September 20
Leeds Castle, near Maidstone

THE clash of steel will ring through the air at Leeds Castle during the Family Fun Weekend.

Dashing knights on horseback will demonstrate the ancient sport of jousting twice daily, while men at arms show their fighting skills in displays presented by the Knights of Royal England.

Complete with a royal box, the authentic jousting arena on the Cedar Lawn will host thrilling displays of horsemanship, daredevil stunts and breathtaking falls.

Mixing history and heritage with stunning grounds and exciting attractions, the Family Fun Weekend offers



a variety of activities such as laser clay shooting, archery, inflated football, rides on a barrel train and traditional side shows.

Visitors can witness time-honoured practices such as falconry at 1.30pm and 3.30pm daily or anyone aged over 14 can return to the

21st century by touring the grounds on a Segway personal transporter.

Key to the Castle tickets, which last for one year, cost £16.50/£13.50 for adults and £9.50 for children.

For more information call 01622 765400 or go online at www.leeds-castle.com.



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MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Ale be having one of those at beer festival

ENJOY a pint of Cobtree Mild and many other real ales at Maidstone's Original Beer and Hop Festival this weekend.

The festival at Kent Life offers the chance to sample a variety of beverages from Kent's finest brewers. The event runs 10am-8pm Saturday and 10am-6pm Sunday. Admission: £7/£6 adults and £5 for kids over three. For details call 01622 763936 or visit www.kentlife.org.uk.

This is strictly for those who love the tango

FIERY dance moves and a passionate composer both feature in the colourful show, Tango! Tango!

Richard Manuel and Maria Solero tell the story of Argentine tango genius, Astor Piazzolla. Maria has appeared on Strictly Come Dancing. See the show at the Hazlitt Theatre, Thursday, September 24. Tickets cost £16/£15. Book on 01622 758611 or www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

Model days out for all flying enthusiasts

MORE than 100 pilots will be sending their crafts into the skies at The Hop Farm Southern Model Air Show.

Jets, biplanes and helicopters will be featuring in the aero-modelling displays. Day tickets are available or visitors can buy a touring and camping package, which includes two days' entrance to the show on Saturday and Sunday. For details visit www.thehopfarm.co.uk.

Mods will want to hear the sounds of this band

HEAR the soul of mod with a modern twist when the Sawdust Caesars visit Maidstone.

Billed as London's top power mod group, the band has built up a strong reputation for its power-punk mod beats. Hear them at www.myspace.com/sawdustcaesars. They will perform at Earls in Earl Street at 9pm tomorrow. Call 01622 751286 or visit www.earlsmaidstone.co.uk.

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Pistols will do their reggae roots proud at Farmhouse

REGGAE has a lot to answer for.

I appreciate the genre has spawned such greats as Bob Marley and Jimmy Cliff, but that's reggae in its purest and truest form.

The 'reggae' I despise comes in the form of the early to mid-90s pop adaptation.

Think muscle-clad singer turned reality TV star and recent divorcee Peter Andre, chart-topping duo Chaka Demus and Pliers, and Shabba Ranks.

All three should be tried for crimes against reggae.

But while the genre has given birth to countless more questionable 'reggae stars' – Sean Paul anyone? – it has also given the world a host of ground-breaking and influential bands.

The likes of The Specials, Madness and The Police all based their sound on solid reggae roots.

And the sub-genres they helped create – such as 2 tone, ska and dub – continue to inspire.

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

One of the leading reggae-rooted outfits playing today are the London-based Dub Pistols, providers of top quality dub and big beat tracks.

The six-piece have built a loyal following thanks to their varied sound and energetic live sets.

Having performed the Lounge on the Farm festival, the Pistols are now set to play Canterbury's Farmhouse venue this Friday, supported by Jimmy Screech.

LOTF and Farmhouse promoter Matt Gough said: "Long-term friend of the Lounge crew Barry Ashworth heads up his band of merry men Dub Pistols for a return visit to Canterbury."

"After a lot, and we mean a lot, of arm-twisting and cajoling at LOTF 2009, we are very happy to say that we've convinced them to

come down to The Farmhouse for a full-band live show.

"New album Rum & Coke is great, the live shows are better than ever, and judging by audience reaction at LOTF this year they're one of the best-loved bands that we put on."

"This is going to be very, very special."

Doors are open from 9pm to 2am, and entry costs £14.

For more information visit www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk

COMING SOON

Friday, September 18 - The Dub Pistols

Wednesday, September 23 - Phenomenal Handclap Band

Friday, October 2 - Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir

Saturday, October 3 - Casiokids

Saturday, October 10 - Bent

Friday, October 16 - The Impellers

Friday, November 27 - Toddla T


Saturday, December 5 - James Taylor Quartet

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- 5 Salvador Charlie - 18/9 Barnaby Rudge Broadstairs

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INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS (18)



Quentin Tarantino's war opus is a blood-soaked fairytale set in Nazi-occupied France, divided into five hefty chapters. He splices genres to dizzying effect across its two-and-a-half hours.

THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE (12A)



Rachel McAdams stars as the woman destined to meet and fall in love with a man (Eric Bana) who suffers from random fits of time-travelling in this adaptation Audrey Niffenegger bestselling book.

Jesse takes a dramatic interest in the absurd

BY LISA WILLIAMS

JESSE Eisenberg has chosen an unusual career path.

Not interested in following in the footsteps of fellow Disney champions Zac Efron or the Jonas Brothers, the lead in Adventureland says he really wants to become a playwright.

The 25-year-old actor who found fame in Noah Baumbach's indie classic The Squid And The Whale and is now acting alongside Twilight star Kristen Stewart in Disney's latest film, calmly outlines his life plan, when I meet him at a hotel suite in Edinburgh.

"I'm interested in fame in so far as it can help me do what I want to do. I want to be a playwright in New York."

Not what you expect to come out of the mouth of a man currently starring in a twee coming-of-age tale set in 80s America.

"It's hard to be a playwright, it's competitive, and yet if you're in movies – regardless of what the movies are about – people are more apt to produce your stuff, even if it's bad."

Jesse says he has had "some moderate success" as a writer so far, mainly because of the contacts he has made during his acting career, but before he puts his full weight behind it, he has an anthropology degree to finish.

His studies give him something in common with his Adventureland character James, whose heart is set on going to university in New York. When his parents break the news they can't afford to send him to university any more, James resigns himself to a dead-end job at a theme park and an even bleaker future.

Luckily for him, the park is staffed by an array of interesting characters, including stunning and studious Em, played by Kristen.

So what makes it different to any other coming-of-age rom-com? Jesse is keen to tell.



ABSD: Jesse Eisenberg has a clever sense of humour

"It's unique. Totally," he enthuses. "It takes its characters seriously, the characters take themselves seriously and it's told in an authentic way. It doesn't pander to lowbrow comic sensibilities and it's a sweet story."

One reason for its authenticity could be the fact James' character is based on the film's writer and producer Greg Mottola – something which worked to Jesse's advantage while making the film.

But Jesse's latest part is also a great vehicle for his sense of the absurd, which comes across throughout the interview. When I ask if he

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gets any fan mail, he replies: "What I do get comes from Austria and it's all men in tight shirts sending me pictures of them in front of a waterfall. I usually send it to the police."

Similarly, talking about keeping in touch with his co-star he says: "I'm not allowed to speak to Kristen now because of a restraining order since the Twilight movies. I'm one of the mad fans and have a website about her."

In contrast, he looks pained when I ask if his girlfriend is still working in the charity sector. "How do you know that?" he exclaims. "How awful! She hates being mentioned."

Immensely private and with a good understanding of the absurdities of life. If Hollywood isn't Jesse's next stop, then a writer's den somewhere round the back of Broadway certainly is.

ADVENTURELAND
Certificate 15

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MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

Bring Back signed book when you meet Justin

COMEDIAN and presenter Justin Lee Collins will be meeting his fans at Bluewater next week.

The star of The Friday/Sunday Night Project and the Bring Back... series will be signing copies of his new autobiography, Good Times!

He is due to appear at Waterstone's at 6pm next Tuesday.

The book is published by Ebury Press this month and will be available at the signing.

Raise a glass to high quality Kentish wines

TRACE the history of wine production in the county by enjoying Produced in Kent's updated wine trail.

The 4.7-mile walk starts at Camer Park, near Meopham and takes enthusiasts through the Meopham Valley.

Containing details of the best establishments to enjoy Kentish wine, 'Red, White and Brut' also includes Kent's wine-making heritage and information about the county's 14 commercial vineyards.

See www.producedinkent.co.uk.

You could be chosen to have a free makeover

A FEW lucky shoppers will receive a free makeover at County Square Shopping Centre in Ashford.

On Saturday stylists from Supercuts will cut, colour and style the hair of the fortunate few, while experts from Debenhams will demonstrate make-up and beauty techniques.

The event runs from 9am to 5pm in the centre mall. For more information about the centre visit www.countysqureshoppingcentre.com.

Support our blooming author with your vote

KENT crime writer Lesley Cookman has been shortlisted in a competition to find Britain's top new authors.

Murder in Bloom, her fifth Libby Sarjeant murder mystery, is one of 12 fiction books put forward this month for the People's Book Prize and readers can vote for their favourite. A selection of books are showcased each month and the top three progress to the finals next July. To find out more or to vote for her see www.peoplesbookprize.com.

Essential beauty also supports cancer charity

ELEMIS has created a limited edition Essential Beauty Secrets kit to raise money for Breast Cancer Care.

To coincide with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, shoppers can buy four award-winning Elemis products in a pink cosmetic bag.

Priced at £50, the kit offers a saving of more than £75 and Elemis has pledged a £10,000 donation from this promotion to Breast Cancer Care. See www.timetospa.co.uk or selected stores.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

WATCHDOG
BBC One, 8pm, Thursday
JAMIE'S AMERICAN ROAD TRIP
Channel 4, 9pm, Thursday

THE much-heralded return of newly face-lifted Anne Robinson on the revamped Watchdog had to be worth a look.

Lynn Olds Wood was put out to pasture years ago and most of us thought the show should have been too.

As the presenters rightly told us, internet blog sites put the power in the hands of the consumer when it comes to complaining.

So what's the point of Watchdog?

None at all on this first outing.

A comparison of cheap children's school uniforms concluded that whether it's Tesco, Asda, M&S or Sainsbury, for under a fiver you can't really go wrong.

So what if the polo shirts shrink a bit, just buy the next size up.

And Rogue Trader presenter Matt Allwright – a wannabe Roger Cooke who races to confront the conmen on the back seat of motorcycle – trained his sights on a mildly aggressive salesman of beds which claim to make you look younger.

Since Rogue Trader had 'sorted' him four years ago, but he's still working, it was a pretty lame start.

I found myself mentally applauding the salesman's handling of his car park confrontation with Matt and his TWO camera crews.

Perhaps the Beeb should consider a new show where viewers can complain about over-hyped telly programmes.

I'd report Watchdog.

YOU can't keep Jamie Oliver off the box. Every year he returns with a new show, with results of varying quality.

Following Jamie at Home, he has



NEW LOOK: Anne Robinson back on Watchdog

flipped the script completely and documented a cook's road trip across America.

In the last episode he went off to live with the cowboys in Wyoming which ended up with a lot of Dutch oven cooking and the wearing of bad hats.

The finest moment was when he tried out the pitchfork fondues, which is basically sticking a steak thicker than a car tyre it into a vat of ruddy hot fat and eating it as soon as it's been partially incinerated.

This was true heart attack food.

Shows like this only ever work if the star really throws themselves into matters and by eating Rocky Mountain oysters (that's bull's balls to you and I), you cannot accuse him of wimping out. Things did seem to go a bit Brokeback Mountain when he couldn't seem to stop talking about his cowboy mentor Hip with a glimmer in his eye, though.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOUR love life has seen better days. Part of the problem is you have distinctly different values than those of your partner. The two of you need to work to find common ground. If you're single, you need to start hanging out places centred around your favourite activities.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

A LACK of romantic opportunities is making you blue. You're the type who lives for love. Instead of dwelling on your disappointment, find a creative outlet. Usually, you opt for hands on arts and crafts. This time around, you could be inspired to take up a technical form of expression.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

FINANCIAL setbacks are cutting into your personal life. It's hard to relax and enjoy yourself when you're constantly worried about paying bills. You need to get comfortable with living in reduced circumstances. You can live without luxuries, but not without affection.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

AN older friend may not approve of your plans. Trying to win their approval really gets on your nerves because you have very different styles, especially when it comes to romance. You crave intense, all encompassing relationships, they prefer to take things slowly.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

THE pressures of an intimate relationship may be too. You'd rather spread your wings and fly than stay where you are under a cloud of emotional anxiety. Unfortunately, it looks as though your amour will take the news hard. The best thing you can do is to stay out of their way.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531753



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 21)

AN old-fashioned friend or relative seems determined to quench your spirit. You want to take a risky career course, but they keep talking about financial security. Actually, these warnings are well timed. It's all well to pursue your dreams, but it always helps to have a back up plan.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

UNCERTAINTY is putting a damper on a close relationship. You're attracted to a free spirit, but can't help but worry over their behaviour. At some point, you need to let them follow their impulses or your attentions will get claustrophobic and your union will fall apart.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

CAREER responsibilities stop you saying what you really feel. This is really difficult, as you value honesty above all else. Still, you have to remember there are others who rely on your discretion. Lashing out at an ill-tempered client could result in people losing their jobs.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

YOU long to leave a demanding job, if only to get a little more free time. Unfortunately, you need the work more than you need a break. Keep your shoulder to the grind. There will be time to relax later. Use your income to pay off a bill that's been weighing on your shoulders.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

ALL the will in the world can't help you master a complicated skill. It looks as though you'll have to call a professional. Although you hate spending money on work you could ostensibly do yourself, do it anyway. Family matters are spiralling out of control.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

IS fear of being alone making you put up with an unhealthy situation? However, you owe it to yourself to break free. Yes, this will involve a period of uncertainty, but that's better than staying where you are. A new acquaintance will make their way into your life.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

THE old ways are not necessarily best, but your boss can't see it. You could be forced to work with outmoded machinery or antiquated systems. Maybe it would be best to find a more challenging position. Staying where you are means your skills will gradually become outdated.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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End of Summer Ball



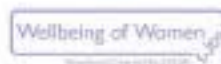
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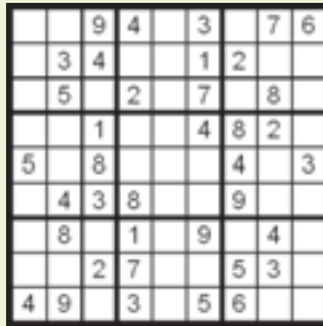
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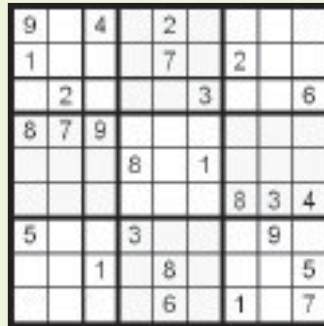
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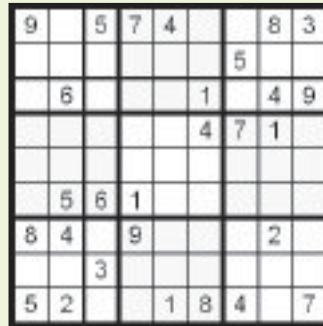
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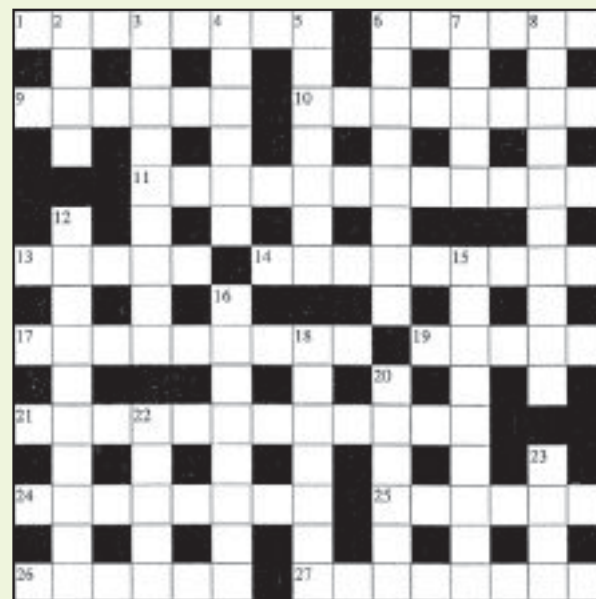
ACROSS

- 1 Chum turned on first excessively (8)
- 6 Regulate our time – that's fair (6)
- 9 Lose sight of metal workshop by junction (6)
- 10 Artist clothed in outdoor wear (8)
- 11 Project a shaky fit of hysterics? (5,1,6)
- 13 Sound of frog coming from a rock (5)
- 14 Thrusting oneself in violently into ruins (9)
- 17 Soup containing eggs? (5-4)
- 19 Subdue that Parisian Lord Lieutenant (5)
- 21 Asking for the mysterious playing-card (4,2,6)
- 24 See Liz in turmoil about rating, it's fairly large (8)
- 25 Fool with explosive makes for cover (6)
- 26 Decisive moment at highest point (6)
- 27 Involving love that is imaginary (8)

ACROSS

- 2 Old stringed instrument or two-thirds of another (4)
- 3 Most reliable place most people hold a pencil (5-4)
- 4 Part of group turned out to be an improvement (6)
- 5 Succeeded with toil and difficulty although had worn badly (4-3)
- 6 To a certain extent, so to speak (2,2,4)
- 7 Twin sheep (5)
- 8 Ours is a minor planet it is sometimes said (5,5)
- 12 Unnatural plastic (10)
- 15 Oops! Pun so clumsy about item of cutlery (9)
- 16 Non-smoker's case? (8)
- 18 Grizzly female perhaps (3-4)
- 20 Marched off, not east, for old Greek coin (6)
- 22 In the jungle a momentary faint glow (5)
- 23 Easterner had some unkempt hair (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Large plane (5,3)
- 6 Ocular (6)
- 9 Leg jewellery (6)
- 10 French emperor (8)
- 11 Overstatement (12)
- 13 Demand (5)
- 14 Stopped flow of blood (9)
- 17 Bad language (5-4)
- 19 Compass (5)
- 21 Bunch of herbs (7,5)
- 24 Painstaking (8)
- 25 Result (anag.) (6)
- 26 Even if (6)
- 27 Lawyer (8)

DOWN

- 2 Bone in arm (4)
- 3 Dancer (9)
- 4 Exhaustion after a long flight (6)
- 5 This evening (7)
- 6 Insubstantial (8)
- 7 Cleavage (5)
- 8 Sorry (10)
- 12 Much less quickly than normal (4-6)
- 15 Old Soviet head of govt. dept. (9)
- 16 Pincers (8)
- 18 Yachting gala (7)
- 20 Biblical mount (6)
- 22 1/20th of a ream (5)
- 23 Turn tail (4)

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ACROSS: 1 Gristle 5 Rubbish 9 Club 10 Neoclassic 12 Somewhat 13 Tweedy 14 Top of the tree 17 Wind of change 21 Quaker 23 Wax-light 24 Unemployed 25 Acne 26 Umbrage 27 Eyedrop. **DOWN:** 2 Roll-on 3 Subjected 4 Long hop 6 Unlatch 7 Baste 8 Skin-deep 11 Out of the way 15 The Lizard 16 Viburnum 18 Foreleg 19 Next day 20 Shinto 22 Khmer.

QUICK SOLUTION No105

ACROSS: 1 Jumbo jet 6 Visual 9 Andlet 10 Napoleon 11 Exaggeration 13 Claim 14 Steamship 17 Swear-word 19 Ambit 21 Bouquet garni 24 Diligent 25 Rustle 26 Unless 27 Attorney. **DOWN:** 2 Ulla 3 Ballerina 4 Jetlag 5 Tonight 6 Vaporous 7 Spit 8 Apologetic 12 Slow-motion 15 Commissar 16 Tweezers 18 Regatta 20 Avarat 22 Quire 23 Flea.

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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A feast for the senses in the Alps

■ BY RICHARD JONES

MANY British hikers take the easy option and stay near home for walking holidays.

But the alpine landscape of Austria, only a two-hour flight from many UK airports, is a great alternative – and a welcome escape from British traffic jams and windswept beaches.

There's much more to Austria than The Sound of Music and Mozart – and perhaps you can discover more of it in summer and autumn than as a skier in winter.

The standard holiday formula has probably changed little since the 1930s: you walk, relish the fresh air and discover the charms of small family-run hotels, with none of the crowds which cram Europe's cities and coastlines.

We started in the small, picturesque village of Maria Alm one Saturday evening, where the Hotel Niederreiter was hosting polka band Niki and the Oberkrainer on stage, along with Tyrol's answer to Frank Carson – who told family anecdotes and mother-in-law jokes.

As I tucked into my Wiener Schnitzel and a few local Stiegl beers, I was impressed by the warmth of the atmosphere.

I also downed what would be the first of many shots of apricot schnapps on the trip, a tipple that I was told helped the digestive process – not to mention sending you to sleep.

Next morning, our group met Barbara, our local walking guide for the day, before strapping on new day-packs.

Like most Brits, we feared bad weather – Austria is two-thirds mountains, and its weather changes in an instant.

Nevertheless, rain stayed away as we took the Dorf Jet gondola, which carries skiers up the slopes in winter.

From the peak we had a spectacular view of



WALKING VIEWS: A hiking trip is a great way to see Austrian Alps, and it also helps to burn off the calories

the valley and Maria Alm, and then we hiked steadily through forests and down to the meadows.

There was so much to see in the woods, with activity boards every 100 metres or so detailing vegetation and wildlife.

Barbara explained the summer programme in the region, when children tackle go-kart racing, pony-trekking, clay-modelling or mini-golf.

Five hours after setting off from Maria Alm we reached our destination, the village of Hinterthal.

Here we had time to enjoy the spa at the Family and Sporthotel Marco Polo before dinner in the hotel's Wintergarten restaurant, when the chef rustled up local delicacy Salzburger Nockerl – a sort of pancake and strawberry-based dessert.

We had to keep walking to work off the calories. By day three, the autumnal rain began to fall as sleet in the valley and snow on the peaks.

Our group agreed there was no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothes. We threw on waterproofs for another day's hiking.

Our departure point this time was the sleepy town of Dienten. Our guide Heinz began with a tour of the town, with its resplendent flower house and historic St Nikolaus church.

Heinz, a retired man, set a cracking pace. By lunchtime we had reached a height of 1,550 metres, and stopped off at the Pichlalm mountain hut for a welcome bowl of goulash soup, another local dessert called Kaiserslaute, plus the obligatory shot of schnapps and a mug of tea with rum.

The proprietor kindly added a spot of accom-

FACT FILE: AUSTRIA

Time difference	+ One hour (GMT)
Capital	Vienna
Language	German
Population	About 8.2 million
Currency	£1 = approx 1.14 euros
Religion	Roman Catholic

Travel details

Richard Jones was a guest of Thomson Lakes & Mountains, which offers 'Walking Without Luggage' tours in the Hochkonig region of Austria from £648 this summer, including ten or 11 nights' half-board, return flights ex-Gatwick, transfers, luggage transfers between guest houses, walking map and directions and walking pin.

Thomson reservations: 0871 230 8181 and www.thomsonlakes.co.uk

dion music and yodelling, before we headed off through the rocky gorges and clouds in the afternoon.

Our hotel that night, the Hotel Ubergossene Alm (Flooded Alpine Meadow) was something special and served up a five-course dinner.

First thing next morning, I decided to go for a swim; and as I lay in the heated whirlpool, large flakes of snow were falling all around.

For the final excursion, our guide Ernst led us across the ravines near Muhlbach to the snow slopes at the bottom of the Hochkonig.

Lunch was another feast: we witnessed a local woman making her own cheese, as well as sampling farm produce including cider, bacon, fresh bread and berries.

This trip was a gastronomic journey as much as a walking holiday, and a paradise for food and drink lovers keen to try something new.

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WOMEN seeking men

MY EVERYTHING
Ashford based, bubbly and fun single mum, 23yr old, curvy build, brunette, I like reading and socialising. WLTm like minded male. Box 457472 ①

MATCH OF THE DAY!
Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 ①

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...
Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 ①

YOURS AND YOURS ONLY
Attractive, down-to-earth British-Indian single mum, 29, WLTm white British male, 29-34, no ties, for long-term relationship. Box 884331 ①

WAITING FOR YOU!
Tall curvy, cuddly female, 32, brunette with green eyes, seeks tall, white, attractive, easygoing male for fun and possible LTR. Chatham Box 874763 ①

IS ANYONE OUT THERE?
31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTm cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879331 ① ②

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE
Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 ①

GOOD LUCK CHARM
Sporty female, 34, 5ft2, likes the gym, beach walks, Tennis and cycling, with similar male in his 30s for friendship in Eastbourne. Box 453712 ①

HORSES FOR COURSES...
Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 ①

A FAIRYTALE ENDING!
Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 ① ②

HAPPY DAYS!
Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 ① ②

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME...
Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 ①

SOUND GOOD?
Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595 ①

SEALED WITH A KISS
Pettie lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, winning and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 ①

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET
Single mum, 36, from Rochester, young-looking, loyal, caring and genuine, gosh, loves dancing, seeking an honest guy, 30-44, for a committed relationship. Box 457602 ①

STARRY NIGHTS
Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878378 ①

HISTORIC MEETING?
Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 ①

SOMETHING LASTING
Professional single mum, 37, own home, looking for a man for friendship, hopefully a permanent relationship. Halsham Box 455221 ①

BE MINE
Honest and caring woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding, Maidstone. Box 456159 ①

GALLOP AHEAD!
Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding, and WLTm honest, reliable man. Box 451311 ① ②

LOVE TO LOVE YOU
Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 ①

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SEIZE THE DAY
Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 ①

MEND A BROKEN HEART
Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 ①

CUTE AS CAN BE
Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983 ①

YOUNG-AT-HEART
Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship/relationship. Box 901893 ① ②

JUST ONE QUESTION...
A warm, generous, attractive and caring lady, 40, seeks soulmate who will love, respect and cherish her. What's taking you so long? Box 873458 ①

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE
Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, with a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 ① ②

PERFECT MATCH
Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine Box 453374 ①

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BETWEEN US
Asian lady, 41, single, no lies, outgoing, fun-loving, professional, looking for white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900 ①

FOR A RELATIONSHIP?
Shy but confident once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 ①

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE
Single mother, recently separated, 41, 5ft9, slim, blonde/blue eyes. WLTm fun loving man with GSOH, someone honest and genuine. I love cooking, cycling, outdoors. Folkestone. Box 457913 ①

JOINED AT THE HIP
Sociable petite girl, 36, great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434 ① ②

BELLA ISABEL
Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTm a gent to socialise with, Tunbridge Wells Box 878250 ① ②

LET'S DATE!
Hard-working woman, 42, WLTm a nice and caring man to date and be happy with. Herne Bay Box 455327 ①

LOVE IS ALL AROUND
Happy-go-lucky, bubbly Blonde, 42, blue eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley Box 454517 ①

HELLO EVERYONE!
Single dog-owner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTm a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seaford Box 454569 ①

LIFE IS GIVING LOVE A GUARANTEE
Down-to-earth lady, 42, sincere, honest and reliable, looking for a male for friendship first, going out, enjoying evenings and perhaps something more later on. Box 449712 ①

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE
Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 447496 ①

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL
Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 453048 ①

ACTIVE TYPE
Lively, energetic fun loving mum, 42, 5ft3, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair, hazel eyes, WLTm honest, fun, mixed race/black gent, for lasting relationship. Box 451819 ① ②

TALL ORDER
Curvy lady, 5ft9, 43yrs old, blonde hair/green eyes. I live in Deal in Kent, I'm down-to-earth and like being out and about. Box 456020 ①

A CHANCE FOR ROMANCE
Energetic 43yr old female, 5'9", short dark hair/blue eyes, slim, have grown up daughter, love the outdoors, cooking, good food, music, days out, country walks... Medway. Box 456888 ①

LOVE TO MEET YOU
Pettie, brunette, bubbly, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy, I like gardening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun fella. Aylesford Box 428464 ①

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE
GSOH, honest, romantic and reliable woman, 45, dark blonde hair/blue eyes. WLTm honest and reliable man 40-55. I like reading, cooking, walks, theatre, animals. Box 457521 ①

STARTING OVER
Divorced 45yr old cuddly woman, brown eyes/hair, likes swimming, animals, cinema, soaps, the beach. WLTm a honest, non-smoking man for friendship, maybe more. Ashford Box 878141 ① ②

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY
Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pre, non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 ①

RELIGHT MY FIRE
Young professional widow, 46, own home, tall, attractive, green eyes/fair hair, enjoys all the good things in life. Looking for a fun-loving romantic guy. Box 876575 ①

FROM THIS MOMENT
Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, n/s, affectionate, loyal and caring, looking for a male, 40-45, n/s, - 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford. Box 454591 ①

HEART AND SOUL
Easy-going single mum, 46, 5ft4, size 12/14, likes bowling, gardening, swimming, looking for a man, 35-49, slim/medium build with similar interests. Maidstone Box 454176 ①

MY PRICE?
Not-just-for-xmas dog lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armour! East Sussex area. Box 872961 ①

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444365 ①

HELP ME OPEN UP
Young lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks. WLTm male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 ①

TWO LOVELY LADIES UP FOR GRABS!
Two bubbly divorced ladies, 49 and 50, looking for two normal divorced guys, early 50s, for happy times and romance. East Sussex Box 456876 ①

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER
Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy Box 429592 ①

ARE YOU LOVING & CARING?
Young 48 year old loving, caring, very bubbly, 5ft5, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, cosy nights, good company Box 434089 ① ②

CHARMING & PROFESSIONAL
Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 471100 ①

JUST IMAGINE
Pettie, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easy-going single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTm genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 ①

CONTACT ME
Maidstone lady, 65, seeking man for friendship, maybe more. I'm 5ft4 and have dark blonde hair. I enjoy cooking, and nights in/out. Box 457594 ①

IN THE COUNTRY
Young looking 72yr old female, slim, with blonde hair/blue eyes. I'd like to share my social life with like minded gent. I like country pubs. Box 457491 ①

Women seeking women

A LITTLE AFFECTION
Intelligent, cheeky, emotional female, 44, WLTm similar woman 35-65 for walks, museum/art trips, wine/dining, theatre, good conversation & friendship first, maybe more (pref Eastbourne Area. Box 873058 ①)

HOPE YOU'RE OUT THERE?
Sincere female, 49, likes football, animals, country pursuits, seeks feminine woman for friendship, maybe more. Gillingham Box 456805 ①

HOMELY SORT
Hello there, I'm looking for a kind, gentle partner, a homely woman, with GSOH. I'm female, 56, and enjoy cinema, reading, antiques, gardening, music. Eastbourne. Box 451409 ①

REPLY to an ad, call:
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REPLY by Text

You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to **82250** e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

LOVELY BUBBLY
Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 ①

BRING ME TO LIFE
Lighthearted female, 42, 5ft2, medium build, loves walking, socialising, swimming, holidays, looking for friendship maybe more. Box 453832 ①

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS?
Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 ① ②

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE
Curvy & curdly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTm similar loving male. Box 443642 ①

GREETINGS!
Canterbury Lady, 56 seeking special genuine, fun loving gent, 50-60, to enjoy life with and share interests such as walking, cinema, theatre, dining out, holidays. Box 873039 ①

ANIMAL LOVER
Attractive lady, non-smoker, aged 57, GSOH, I enjoy eating in/out, seeing friends, theatre, animals, and WLTm similar, non-smoking male. Box 452498 ①

SMART MOVE
Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854 ①

TIME TO LOVE
Slim and active woman, 57, 5ft2, brown hair/green eyes, likes walking, riding, POI, animals, seeking a non-smoking genuine gent for a meaningful relationship. Rochester Box 456773 ①

WALKS ALONG THE COAST
Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 ①

SOMEBODY TO LAUGH WITH...
Loving lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 443682 ①

TALL ORDER
Attractive female, 60's, with a young outlook on life, slim build, likes animals, walking, meals, looking for a tall man for friendship, possible LTR. Hastings. Box 456604 ①

LOVE ME, LOVE MY DOG
Loveful, intelligent, caring female, 62, young looking/active, like walks, music, cooking, seeking sensitive, caring, uncomplicated male, N/S, perhaps a dog owner, for friendship first. Box 434345 ①

VERY LOVING AND LOYAL
Jason, 39, 5ft1, dark hair, smart, average looks, single dad, recently separated, would love to meet single mum for hopeful relationship. Box 457340 ①

AMP OUT
39 year old male into rock, music, gigs, pubs clubs and everything, looking for a single lady, someone special. St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 456408 ①

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS
Ambitious 38yr old builder, down-to-earth, broad-shouldered, slim, athletic, likes restaurants, travel, wine bars, clothes, seeks similar caring confident girl for love. Box 448003 ①

FRIENDS FIRST
Caring, understanding chap, 40, 5ft7, blue eyes/blond hair, slim/average build. I'm easygoing and relaxed, like travel, music, film, restaurants, theatre, days out, badminton. Box 451361 ①

LOVE MED DO
Brown-eyed man, 40, likes playing darts, WLTm bubbly, fun to be with lady to go on dates with and get to know better. Dover Box 456129 ①

DO I ATTRACT YOU?
Happy go lucky single dad, 40, looking for a slim female, -size 12, to share good times and happiness with. Hurlton Box 457738 ①

FANCY A DRINK?
Outgoing outdoors male, 40, 5ft11, medium build, brown hair, loves the countryside, adventure and travelling, seeks similar female for romance and more. Box 451995 ①

DON'T HESITATE
Hello I'm Mark, 58' tall brown hair and eyes very fit. Love fun in any form you can think of. Box 452898 ①

ONE STEP CLOSER
Truthful male, 43, 5ft8, brown hair/eyes, medium build, own house, enjoys most things, seeks loving woman. Brighton Box 455722 ①



MEN seeking women

I'M THE ONE!

Kind, generous and caring bloke, 31, from Folkestone, 6ft4, large build, blue eyes, enjoy socialising, cinema, eatings out, sport, seeking a like-minded girl for LTR. Box 455527 ①

A BIT SHY...

Passionate male, 33, GSOH, likes cycling, staying fit, travel, holidays and music, seeks lady to socialise with and take on dates. Box 455801 ①

MANY INTERESTS

Ashford based man, I'm 35, and enjoy music, walking, dogs, biking. WLTm female for friendship, maybe relationship. Box 457220 ①

INTERESTED?

Easygoing, genuine male, 36, 5ft8, dark hair, medium build/cuddly. I like cinema, pubs, walks. Would love to hear from you! Box 452537 ①

I'M YOUR MAN

Hi I'm Dave, 37, 6ft, likes staying in and going out, looking for a easygoing female for friendship leading to more. Box 453105 ①

GENUINE

Easygoing male, 36, 6ft, large build, 1 daughter, likes fishing, motorbike, going out, with friendly female to share good times with. Box 161234 ①

OUTGOING

friendly male, 35, 6ft, likes fishing, wltm easygoing female, to enjoy life. Box 185091 ①

CHEEKY SOH

Unconventional, independent, successful, fun guy, 39, hazel eyes, no ties, like motorbikes, holidays, theme parks, looking for a younger, career female for lasting relationship. Box 455647 ①

VERY LOVING AND LOYAL
Jason, 39, 5ft1, dark hair, smart, average looks, single dad, recently separated, would love to meet single mum for hopeful relationship. Box 457340 ①

MUSIC LOVER
Not bad looking male, 51, 5ft11, medium build, very short grey hair, loves music, TV, the odd drink, socialising; WLTm friend first and then see. Box 451846 ①

SOUL TO SOUL
Looking for My Miss Right! I'm male, 51, GSOH, seeking suit mate to share life with. Box 455256 ①

EBONY & IVORY
White male of 51, seeks a nice black lady 40+ who likes eating in/out, likes walking, music and more. Canterbury. Box 454981 ①

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STANDING ON OUR OWN FEET
Hi there, 43 year old outgoing male, 6ft, with brown hair/blue eyes, sincere, caring, generous & thoughtful, OHAC, seeks caring sincere female for loving relationship...Kent. Box 884870 ① ②

SIMILAR? LOOKING FOR LOVE?
Slim Kent man, 44, dark hair and eyes, loves music, swims and walks, looking for lady to take me as I am. Box 451474 ①

IN LOVE
Single 50s male looking for lady for loving friendship. I'm honest, sincere, genuine and love a laugh, hoping

PROPERTY NEWS

How far would you go to keep your property?

HOMEOWNERS are keen to take extra measures to ensure they keep their homes, but only a few have adequate insurance cover if they lose their job, according to recent research.

Opinium Research carried out an online poll of 2,007 British adults for insurance provider LV, which found that more than half of homeowners – 51 per cent – would take a second job to hold on to their home while more than four in ten – 43 per cent – would withdraw some or all of their life savings to make ends meet.

Almost a third would even be prepared to sell off the family silver.

But only one in ten said they had adequate insurance to pay their mortgage as well as other household bills over the long term, if they were to lose their job.

One in five homeowners would be prepared to take in a lodger to help pay the mortgage and almost as many would rather go cap in hand to friends than give up their property.

Expert advice can help you through 'mortgage maze'

ONE in four first-time buyers have said they would never choose a mortgage without expert guidance, according to a survey by consumer advice website Unbiased.

The same study reported the number of internet searches for "find a mortgage adviser" increased 133 per cent between the beginning of 2009 and the last quarter of 2008. David Elms, chief executive of the company which runs the site, said seeking a professional insight was the way to come out of the "mortgage maze" a winner.

The company also revealed 23 per cent of potential homeowners feel so puzzled by the procedures that they experience a loss of confidence.

Rush to buy as stamp duty holiday nears end

THE stamp duty holiday, which has saved property buyers thousands of pounds in taxes, is to cease at the end of the year.

The break frees buyers of an obligation to pay stamp duty on a purchase under £175,000.

The move re-ignited interest in the flagging housing market during the downturn, and the discount, worth as much as £1,750, can be a big help to some buyers.

L&C Mortgages is encouraging those looking to purchase a home to act now, if possible.

"House purchases can take months to complete, so it is make-your-mind-up time if you are considering buying a property," said L&C's head of communications, David Hollingworth.

He continued: "With house prices now holding up more strongly and in some cases rising, the stamp duty holiday will act as a greater incentive as the deadline approaches."

There has been speculation that the Government will extend the deal to further boost the mortgage market.

In recent months, there have been an increased number of mortgage agreements for first-time buyers and prices have seen a slight upturn.

"It would be nice to leave it at the current level. It would benefit the market," said Peter O'Donovan, head of mortgages at BestInvest.

"If they do change it, hopefully they will tier it properly so everyone ends up paying an equal value," he added.

Currently, stamp duty is divided into tiers from under £175,000, between £175,000 and £250,000, between £250,000 and £500,000, and above £500,000. The rates are zero, one, three and four per cent respectively.

Members of the property and mortgage industries have long called on the Government for a fairer system of stamp duty, where fixed thresholds are replaced with a more fluid set of charges, thus preventing artificial price levels at each stamp duty threshold.

Any changes – or an extension to the stamp duty holiday – would come in the Chancellor's pre-budget report expected this autumn.



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Maidstone OIEO £275,000

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Maidstone £199,950

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Loose, Maidstone £265,000

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Weaving

- Four bedroom detached,
- Double glazing, central heating,
- Conservatory, double garage

£325,000

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Penenden Heath

- Self-contained annexe
- Three bedrooms. Two receptions.
- Kitchen/Diner, Bathroom, 2nd WC.

£249,995

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Kingswood

- Extended four bedroom
- Private rear garden
- Garage and driveway

£249,995

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Penenden Heath

- Two bedroom bungalow
- Conservatory, gardens
- Off road parking and garage

£235,000

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Weaving

- Two bedroom bungalow,
- Double glazing, gas central heating,
- Garage and attractive garden

£235,000

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Sandling

- Three bedroom 1930's house
- Two reception rooms, views across fields
- No onward chain.

Asking Price £210,000

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Maidstone

- Three bedrooms, two receptions
- Kitchen, bathroom, entrance porch
- Entrance hall, cloakroom

Guide Price £185,000

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Mereworth | Price Range: £390,000 - £425,000
 • Four Bedroom Chalet Style House
 • Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Family Room, Downstairs WC
 • Garage, Two Gardens, Balcony To Master Bedroom
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Langley | Price Range: £300,000 - £330,000
 • 3 Bedroom Detached Family Home In Village Location
 • Luxury Bathroom, Kitchen/Diner, Double Glazed
 • Gas Central Heating, Double Garage & Off Road Parking
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Maidstone | Price Range £270,000 - £300,000
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Maidstone | £250,000 - £285,000
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 • Wet Room, 80' Rear Garden
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Ditton | £220,000 - £240,000
 • Well Presented 3 Bedroom Extended Semi Detached Home
 • 22' Lounge Plus Additional 11'11 Dining Area, Studio/Annexe
 • Utility Room, Beautiful Secluded Rear Garden, No Forward Chain
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Bearsted | £185,000 - £225,000
 • Superb 2 Bedroom Duplex Apartment Near Village Green
 • Modern Kitchen & Bathroom, Ensuite Shower Room
 • Sought After Location, No Chain
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Larkfield | £180,000 - £200,000
 • Well Presented 2 Bedroom Terrace Home with 2 En-Suites
 • Spacious Lounge/Diner, Cloakroom, 2 Allocated Parking Spaces
 • Leybourne Lakes Development, No Forward Chain
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 • Downstairs Cloakroom and Bathroom
 • 2 Good Size Reception, Secluded Rear Garden
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Maidstone



£105,000

Unique four bedroom house in town centre, no onward chain and viewing via agent. Viewing recommended.

Marden



Offers in the region of £140,000

Semi-rural, lounge, dining room, office plus kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom, gated driveway.

Maidstone



£159,995

Two bed house in cul de sac location in popular area. Parking to rear. Front & rear gardens. Viewing essential.

Maidstone



£174,995

Three bedroom Semi Detached Home. Unique, extended family home. Driveway parking. Viewing recommended.

Maidstone



£179,995

Two bedroom with garage. Front and rear gardens. En-suite shower room, cloakroom and bathroom.

Maidstone



£197,000

Flexible and adaptable family home. Three beds, separate receptions, en-suite & cloakroom. Viewing recommended.

Aylesford



Offers in excess of £210,000

Semi detached four bedroom family home with generous plot. Driveway parking. Viewing essential.

Maidstone



Offers in excess of £224,995

Unique detached ragstone cottage in Mote Park. Driveway parking. Good size rear garden.

Maidstone



£234,995

Superb three/four bedroom town house. Three storeys, two allocated parking spaces, en-suite, fitted kitchen.

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Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £77,500 for 18 Winchester Place, Bluett Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 2UZ. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Connells, 30 King Street, Maidstone, Kent, Tel: 01622 751034, before exchange of contracts.

Maidstone

£134,950



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Maidstone

£129,950



- Mid Terrace 3 Bedroom House
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Maidstone

£189,995



- 3 Bed Semi Detached Family Home
- Conservatory
- Garage and ORP
- Modern Kitchen

Weavering

£299,999



- Four Bedrooms
- En Suite To The Master Bedroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- Attractive Rear Garden

Penenden Heath

£375,000



- Substantial 4 Bedroom Period Property
- Over 4 Floors
- Character Features
- Double Garage

Maidstone

£189,995



- Three bedroom town house
- Modern fitted kitchen, living rm
- Courtyard garden
- Gas central heating and allocated parking

Maidstone

£219,995



- Superb 3/4 bedroom Townhouse
- Modern fitted kitchen
- En Suite to Master Bedroom
- Pretty courtyard garden

Coxheath

£240,995



- 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Garage
- Conservatory
- ORP for 4 Cars

Vinters Park

£315,000



- 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Double garage & Drive
- Cloakroom
- 18'6 Lounge

Maidstone

£215,000



- 3 Bed Semi Detached Family Home
- Garage and ORP
- Conservatory
- Ensuite to the Master Bedroom

Linden

£174,995



- Delightful 2 bedroom cottage
- Many character features
- Stripped pine floors
- 85' Rear garden

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Plains Avenue £425PCM



- Annexe in nice street
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Foley Street £500PCM



- One bed flat on ground floor
- Large kitchen, living room
- Bedroom and bathroom
- Allocated parking

Wheeler Street £675PCM



- 3 bedroom terrace
- Upstairs bathroom
- Cellar and rear garden
- Good sized reception rooms

The Coachyard £675PCM



- 2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms
- Master bedroom has ensuite
- Allocated parking and balcony
- Fitted kitchen with appliances

Kingswood House £675PCM



- Development next to the hospital
- 2 bedrooms, master has ensuite
- Allocated parking
- Kitchen with appliances

Penenden Heath £670PCM



- 2 bedroom flat on 2nd floor
- large living and kitchen area
- bathroom with shower
- allocated parking for one car

Queensgate £750PCM



- 2 bedroom apartment
- 2 double beds, master en suite
- spacious living room
- good location for Hospital

Upper Fant Road £750PCM



- Just refurbished lovely house
- Downstairs bathroom, living rm
- Cellar and rear garden
- 3 decent sized bedrooms

Kingfisher Meadow £750PCM



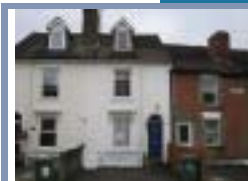
- 2 bed apartment by riverside
- En suite to master bedroom
- Fitted wardrobes, Fitted kitchen
- Double aspect balcony

Ashford Road £900PCM



- lovely Georgian style terrace
- near to town
- over 4 floors, 3 double beds
- 2 receptions, long garden

Lower Fant Road £900PCM



- 4 bed town house terrace style
- kitchen, dining room
- Bathroom and living room
- 4 double beds, lovely garden

The Downs £1500PCM



- 5 bed house with great views
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- Very modern and stylish
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MOTORS NEWS



Minor miracle as dealer saves scrapped Morris

FEARS have been realised that some classic cars could end up in the crusher as a result of the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme.

But at least this pristine 36,000-mile 1958 Morris Minor escaped the squeeze after its owner traded it for a £6,000 discount on a Hyundai Coupé at Gatwick Hyundai. The dealer realised the Minor was too young to die, but cannot now legally be driven on the road, so they have offered it free to any organisation with a worthy 'proposal'.



Qubo liberated by add-ons and extra traction

FIAT is just one of three brands who offer an identical new small van-based MPV, but the Italian marque has come up with a point of difference for its Qubo version. It's the Qubo Trekking costing £12,650 which, as the name implies, is a ruffy tufty spin-off with rugged add-ons and mud and snow tyres.

But it's not all cosmetics; there is also a Traction+ electronic differential lock for the front driving wheels to improve handling and control in mud, snow and other low-grip conditions.



Peugeot's auto that now thinks it's manual

TWIN clutches are revolutionising the way we think about automatics.

They cost more, but can deliver the in-town convenience of a standard auto, with manual economy, emissions and driving pleasure on the open road.

Peugeot has now added a six-speed dual-clutch or 'DCS' option to its classy 4007 5-7-seat 4x4/SUV as part of the new 156bhp 2.2-litre HDi FAP diesel powertrain, which can average nearly 40mpg. The new DCS model is part of a revamped 4007 line-up that starts from £23,345.



LOOKING GOOD: The newest version of Nissan's Qashqai +2 n-tec now has a third row of seats and has been rebuilt from windscreen pillar to tailgate, making the car longer

'Nice Nissan' shows that it's really very interesting

SNookER star Steve Davies was dubbed 'Interesting' by 80s TV show Spitting Image at a time when snooker dominated TV ratings.

The barb was drawn by Davis's metronomic success when many fans preferred the flamboyance of players like Alex 'Hurricane' Higgins.

Had Spitting Image endured though – and what fun it would have today, Gordon Brown and Alistair Darling – 'Nice Nissan' could have been a target.

Known for reliable and, well, ordinary cars – it was the Davis, not the Higgins of 'carbizz'.

Until the Qashqai arrived in 2007, that is, hustled in by a name like an explosive sneeze and blowing Nice Nissan way into the past.

I've been driving the newest version, a Qashqai +2 n-tec. Translated from Qashqai-speak – for the name comes from a nomadic Iranian people – that means two extra seats in the back and lots of extra media 'tech'.

To accommodate the third row of seats the original five-seater has been rebuilt from windscreen pillar to tailgate, making the car longer and taller without affecting the Qashqai's bullish

ROAD TEST NISSAN QASHQAI

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

grace, enhanced by a smarter grille on the +2.

But the quasi-4x4 or 'crossover' styling is only part of the reason why the Qashqai is Nissan's most successful European launch ever and why – until the recession – we seemed to get weekly bulletins on increased production at the company's Sunderland UK plant.

The car's width of appeal is another factor; it was designed to sweep away three existing 'nice' models – the Almera family hatch and its Tino MPV spin-off, plus the Primera family model.

With the +2 it now also attacks Vauxhall's sector leading Zafira seven-seat mid-MPV and mounts a convincing argument, with far more visual impact and a huge load compartment with all rear seats fully folded.

And then there is the car's handling; for a high-riding vehicle, the Qashqai is outstanding and even this stretched version is lively even though the 100bhp 1.5-litre diesel – the best choice for the five-seater – is a bit stretched here.

Qashqai +2 prices start at a tempting £15,600. Upmarket n-tec spec brings and impressive in-car comms package of sat nav, full mobile phone connectivity and the 'Nissan Connect' sound system with USB/iPod link. The 1.5dCi version tested here is £20,200.



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06 06 HONDA CR-V EXECUTIVE AUTO PAS SAT NAV LEATHER 18000MILES.....	£14995
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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

SMALL FAMILY ESTATES/HOLDALLS

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BRITAIN'S motor market was turned upside down in the early part of this millennium. Diesel demand soared, MPVs and 4x4s undermined sales of traditional family cars and the estate car came in from the cold. Once the Cinderella sister to saloons and tending to appeal to farmers, tradesmen or sales reps burdened by customer samples, the modern estate has acquired a more upmarket image that suggests country living and huntin', shootin' and fishin'. In their smaller form, they are usually now known as 'lifestyle estates' – here are three pacesetters.

AUDI A4 AVANT



AUDI aims to make estates so stylish they must be called Avant rather than 'estate' and the A4 version has come to epitomise the lifestyle sector of that market. Which means badge, style, image, quality and a rewarding drive, plus superb engines including state of the art diesels and the option of Audi's legendary quattro all-wheel drive. Even in the current recession those four rings on the grille don't come cheap, but strong demand says they are worth it.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VOLVO V50



VOLVO'S compact V50 is hardly from the same mould as the Swedish brand's capacious old-time Volvo estates, but it cuts a nice dash. Ultimate load-carrying of the most recent version, when the rear seats are folded, is also good enough to make larger rivals look frivolous. But this is still a lifestyle estate selling on style, image and quality rather than 'luggability', with a neat yet practical cabin that echoes Scandinavian interior design.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

JAGUAR X-TYPE ESTATE



JAGUAR struck gold with this stylish version of its 'baby' model line-up. The estate is elegant yet more of a genuine load carrier than many rivals. And the Jaguar badge and 'English' interior take it closest to the lifestyle or country set image aspired to by buyers of this class of car. The 2.0 and 2.2-litre diesels are the preferred choice, but the silky V6 petrol versions are the more affordable and rewarding to drive, while quality overall is excellent.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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COMPACT, 316ti se manual, 2003, black metallic with grey cloth, 74000 miles, £4950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

conditioning, twin air bags, adjustable steering column, electric mirrors, stereo, radio, cd player, child locks, 16" alloys, grey, 3000 miles, £4995, Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE

column/wheel, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control. insurance group:6, silver, 73000 miles, £5895, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

central locking, immobiliser, power steering, grp lined, gah fridge, electric standby available if required. over fifty fridge vans in stock.
www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 12000 miles, £8595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

FOCUS, LX 5dr, cv53woj, immobiliser remote alarm, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, stereo, grey, 57000 miles, £4199, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

STREETKA, 16v Winter Edition, gw55 axx, factory hard top, air conditioning, full leather, heated seats, remote central locking, remote alarm, front fog lamps, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, power steering, alloy wheels, red, 30000 miles, £6495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE

SANTA FE, CDX Crtd, full leather, air con, power steering, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, electric sunroof, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear headrests, front fog lamps, centre armrest, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, heated seats, cruise control, twin air bags, alloy wheels, 4x4, silver, 28600 miles, £8995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

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Community Liaison Officer

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An understanding of the roles of other professionals and partners will also be an advantage. This post also requires a level 3 Childcare/Early Years or comparable relevant qualification.

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To find out more about this exciting role or to arrange a visit please contact: Margaret Windeatt, Community Services Manager on Tel: 01634 852320 or email office@saxon-way.medway.sch.uk

Closing Date: 2 October 2009
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Closing Date: 2nd October 2009

Interviews will take place on 6th October 2009

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338236) stating the position for which you are applying



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Closing date: Thursday 24th September 2009
Interviews to be held Monday 28th September 2009

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Closing Date: Friday 18th September 2009

Interview Date: To Be Confirmed

CLASSROOM MANAGER REQUIRED

Hours: 8.30am – 3.30pm, 32 hours a week, term-time only (39 weeks)

Salary: Kent Scheme 6 (£18,471 – £20,262 pro rata per annum)

We are looking for people with excellent communication skills, the ability to interact well with both students (aged 11-18) and staff, the ability to manage a variety of situations, be calm and work well under pressure.

The main role is to supervise and provide instruction to students in the absence of subject teachers for lessons provided. The Classroom Manager will also be responsible for carrying out other tasks that are related to the learning environment.

You will have to provide an Enhanced CRB disclosure for which the employer will pay.

Closing Date: Midday Friday 18th September 2009

Interviews: Wednesday 23rd and

Thursday 24th September 2009

For more information and an application form please contact:

Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College,
Surrenden Road, Folkestone,
Kent. CT19 4ED.

Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
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DREAMLAND, MARGATE

The Dreamland Trust has secured funding to commence work on the development of detailed proposals for a unique eight-acre tourist attraction. Phase One of the project, worth £12.4m, will create the world's first amusement park to solely feature thrilling historic rides and will be centred on the Grade II-listed Scenic Railway roller coaster. The second phase will involve the restoration of the Grade II*-listed Dreamland Cinema building as a multi-purpose entertainment venue, creating a national centre for seaside heritage, popular culture and street style.

We are now recruiting a core team to make this exciting concept a reality.

PROJECT DIRECTOR

£31,250pa P/T (£62.5K FTE)

The Project Director will be the public face of Dreamland Margate, overseeing a small team, including a Project Manager. The successful candidate will need to be enthusiastic about popular culture and seaside heritage. They will have to show evidence of successfully delivering complex capital projects, fundraising, managing partnerships and have the presence, flair and people skills to maintain progress towards meeting tight deadlines. They will have high-level communication and presentational skills and will know how to allocate their time and delegate intelligently.

Closing date: 2 October 2009.

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

£28,000pa

The Audience Development Officer is a curator, organiser and the public liaison point for the project, organising exhibitions that act as the basis for audience development. The successful candidate will have an appropriate degree, experience of curatorial duties and managing and creating publicity. The post-holder must possess a knowledge of, and passion for, seaside culture and post-War popular music and fashion.

Closing date: 19 October 2009.

PROJECT ARCHIVIST

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This is an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic archivist to research, collate and disseminate historical information relating to the Dreamland site and seaside culture, specifically in Margate, as part of the development of the Dreamland project. Please note this post will require some travel.

Closing date: 19 October 2009.

For details of how to apply for all these posts visit www.dreamlandmargate.com



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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that we Ian Yerrill and Bernard Hoffman both of Gerald Edelman Business Recovery, Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named Company by the Members and Creditors on 3 September 2009.

I Yerrill and B Hoffman, Joint Liquidators

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Notice is hereby given that Duncan Robert Beat of Tenon Recovery, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6JB was appointed Liquidator of the above company on 8 September 2009. Further the creditors of the above are required on or before 7 November 2009 to detail their names and addresses (and solicitors if applicable) together with particulars of their debts or claims, in writing, or in person, to the Liquidator, and as specified by the Liquidator, or in default thereof they will be excluded from any benefit arising from the liquidation. Dated this day of 8 September 2009 Duncan Robert Beat, Liquidator

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PODIUM PLACE: Scott Smart came close to winning his first race of the season

SUPERBIKES

Engine blowout puts end to Smart hopes of first win

SCOTT Smart picked up his second podium finish of the season despite his engine blowing up metres from the chequered flag at Croft.

The Maidstone-based British Superstock rider had a difficult weekend on the Motorapido Ducati, with engine problems in practise and qualifying limiting him to a handful of laps.

In fact, he completed just four laps in qualifying, which was enough to secure fifth spot on the grid.

However, Sunday's race proved to be one of the most exciting of the season with Smart, John McGuinness, Alastair Selley and Steve Brogan fighting tooth and nail for the victory.

The quartet were separated by barely a second on the final lap and on the exit of the final corner Smart made a move for the lead, but his engine suffered a dramatic failure. Oil and smoke poured out of his bike, but he managed to cross the line in second place.

Smart's second podium of the year has cemented a seventh-placed finish in the championship standings.

In the British 125 Championship, Tom Weeden continued his progress in his debut season with a 15th-place finish.

The 15-year-old, from Maidstone, struggled in qualifying and could only secure 25th spot on the grid, but his race pace improved and Weeden picked up ten positions.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



CELEBRATION: The Mote captain Glen Aukett is preparing for life in the Premier Division next season after guiding his team to promotion to the Kent Premier League

Picture IGOR KUPCO

The Mote end six-year wait for return to the Premier Division

CRICKET

■ BY TOM HOWARD

THE MOTE are already preparing for life in the Kent Premier Division after securing promotion on a dramatic final day of the season.

Glen Aukett's side narrowly missed out on promotion last season, but the Maidstone side clinched a return to the Premier Division for the first time since 2003.

The Mote made a solid start the season, occupying a place in the top three in the

opening weeks. However, Aukett's side had to recover from a wobble midway through the season, but five wins on the bounce in the final run in, including a final day win at rivals Hythe, sealed their promotion bid.

Club chairman Michael Cutler refused to single out a key performer for the side this season, instead choosing to look forward to a return to the county's top division after six years in Division One.

He said: "It has been a good season for the whole club and the promotion for the 1st XI is brilliant. It is great to be back in the Premier Division after a number of years out.

"It was a dramatic day at Hythe but I think we deserved to get promotion. It would be hard to pick anyone out as a star performer, it has really been a whole team performance.

"Next season is going to be tough. The standard of the Premier Division has been increasing in recent years so it is certainly going to be interesting to see how it pans out. I think the captain maybe in talks to bring in some new personnel, but we will have to see."

Addington Village are another Maidstone side celebrating after clinching the Division Four title by going through the season unbeaten.

Village clocked up an impressive 322 points on their way to the title, finishing 60 points clear of their nearest rivals, Old Elthamians. Addington, who will be preparing for Division Three next season, won a staggering 15 of their 18 games.

In Division Five, Offham complete another solid season by finishing in sixth position.

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Stones cup dreams alive after comfortable victory

FA CUP FIRST QUALIFYING ROUND

BY TOM HOWARD

Maidstone United 2

Saunders 9, Bottle 75

Bedfont 1

Hind 90

GOALS from Jay Saunders and Jimmy Bottle helped Maidstone United ease through to the second qualifying round of the FA Cup.

Lloyd Hume and Alan Walker's side were on top throughout the 90 minutes although the game ended on a sour note with the sending off of striker Aaron Firth.

Maidstone started brightly and could have grabbed the lead with two minutes on the clock. Nathan Paul came close to recreating his equaliser against Tonbridge Angels the previous week, but this time his floated shot flew narrowly over the crossbar.

Just seven minutes later the Stones took the lead when Dean Hernandez-Bradshaw's cross was headed into the net by Saunders. The pair combined again shortly after, but Saunders witnessed his header crash against the crossbar.

The home side continued to create chances and Tom Parkinson and Roland Edge both wasted good opportunities. Hernandez-Bradshaw could have scored a second goal on the stroke of half-time, but he was denied by Bedfont goalkeeper Del Lewis.

Bedfont, who are top of the Combined Counties League, briefly caused their opponents to worry with their first effort of the game, but Jamie Turner was alert to the shot.



CUP DREAMS: Maidstone United's Jay Saunders (left) opened the scoring in a comfortable FA Cup tie win for the Stones

Despite dominating the possession, it took Maidstone until the 75th minute to increase their lead. Substitute Jimmy Bottle was on hand in the area to volley home a cross past Lewis.

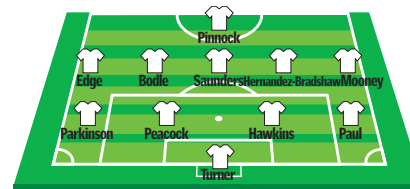
With Maidstone cruising towards the final whistle, the game took a twist when striker Firth was shown a straight red card for retaliating to a previous incident.

In the final minutes of the game, Maidstone conceded a penalty which Liam Hind dispatched. The spot kick proved to be only a consolation for Bedfont.

After the game, joint-boss Alan Walker insisted Firth has to learn from being sent off if he is to have a future at the club.

He said: "There is no place for what Aaron

Maidstone starting XI



Subs used: Firth (Mooney 63), Bottle (Bottle 72)

did to get sent off at Maidstone United and I am very disappointed in him. He has apologised to us and he knows he has done wrong."

Maidstone have been drawn away to Middlesex side Harefield United in the next round of the FA Cup. The game is to be played at the club's Preston Park ground on Saturday, September 26.



TACKLE: The Aylesford Bulls' (in red) defence were unable to prevent a defeat against Wimbledon

Bulls made to pay for missed opportunities

Wimbledon 30 Aylesford Bulls 12

INDISCIPLINE cost Aylesford Bulls the chance to pick up their first win of the season in a bruising encounter at Wimbledon.

The game started in a scrappy manner with both teams making unforced errors, but the Bulls had the first real scoring opportunity. Dave Dorton struck the upright with a penalty attempt on five minutes.

However, it was Wimbledon who opened the scoring by hitting Aylesford with a slick move shortly after. The Bulls' defence failed to stop a quick move from the base of a scrum 60 yards out, which resulted in an unconverted try.

Bulls replied minutes later with a try from debutant flanker Pete Stevens. The front five drove Wimbledon off their own scrum ball ten yards out and number eight Tim Vereivalu created space for Stevens to drive over the try line.

Concentration

The visitors seemed to lose concentration towards the end of the half and Wimbledon capitalised by dispatching a penalty and scoring a try just before the break.

Despite having the wind behind them at the start of the second half, Aylesford struggled to find a way back into the game.

The visitor's hopes of a first win were dealt a blow when Dave Smith, the club's lock, was sent to the sin bin. In his absence Wimbledon scored an easy try under the posts from a line-out.

The Bulls showed some fighting spirit once Smith returned from the bin and after a good kick from Dorton, Wimbledon were forced to defend in their own 22.

Aylesford capitalised by scoring their second try of the afternoon to cut the deficit. Dorton added the extra two points, but it was to be the last score for the Bulls.

The score stayed at 12-25 until added time when Wimbledon added to their score and wrapped up the two points with an unconverted try.

Bulls are back in action this Saturday when they host Chichester.

LEAGUE TABLES

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Dartford	7	6	1	0	+19	19
2 Tooting & Mitcham Utd	7	4	2	1	+4	14
3 Canvey Island	7	4	2	1	+3	14
4 Hastings United	7	4	1	2	+4	13
5 Tonbridge Angels	7	3	3	1	+4	12
6 Aveley	7	3	2	2	+4	11
7 Carshalton Athletic	7	3	2	2	0	11
8 Boreham Wood	7	3	1	3	+2	10
9 Wealdstone	7	2	4	1	0	10
10 Hendon	7	3	1	3	-2	10
11 Sutton United	7	3	0	4	+4	9
12 Harrow Borough	7	2	3	2	0	9
13 Maidstone United	7	2	3	2	-1	9
14 Horsham	7	2	2	3	-1	8
15 Billericay Town	7	1	4	2	-1	7
16 Waltham Abbey	7	1	4	2	-2	7
17 Cray Wanderers	7	2	1	4	-3	7
18 AFC Hornchurch	7	2	1	4	-6	7
19 Margate	7	2	1	4	-8	7
20 Kingstonian	7	2	1	4	-10	7
21 Ashford Town (Middx)	7	1	2	4	-4	5
22 Bognor Regis Town	7	1	1	5	-6	4

FIXTURES (Saturday): Ryman Premier Division: Boreham Wood v Maidstone United

Changes make no odds as Maidstone are destroyed

RUGBY

Dover 41 Maidstone 0

MAIDSTONE'S slow start to the new rugby season continued with comprehensive defeat to Kent rivals Dover.

Tim Mc Bennett's side, who suffered defeat on the opening day of the London 1 South campaign last week against Old Elthamians, had no answer to a strong and well-organised Dover side.

A much-changed Maidstone XV were put under pressure straight from the whistle and Dover scored the first try of the afternoon after ten minutes.

Martyn Beaumont played in Blair Charge, who burst through the Maidstone defence to score under the posts. Charge added the extras.

Maidstone generated genuine pressure shortly after and much of the play was in the Dover half. However, a yellow card shown to Steve Matthews, for stopping a quick penalty, upset the balance.

Before he could return, Dover added to their lead with a penalty and a try by wing Ricky Mackintosh.

Dover's creativity and strength produced another try this time from a maul on the Maidstone 22. Beaumont slipped round the



THRASHED: Maidstone struggled to knit together any attacking moves as they fell to a heavy defeat

blind side to run unopposed to the posts.

The try was followed by a clever move, which saw the fly-half break clear and quickly score another try. With Charge slotting over the conversion, Maidstone went to the half-time 29-0 behind and damage limitation became the name of the game.

While Maidstone could and should have scored in the second half, handling errors at vital times were punished by Dover. The hosts went on to score two more tries to condemn Maidstone to a heavy defeat.

Maidstone will hope to record their first win of the seasons when they host Tunbridge Wells this Saturday.

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